# EXHIBIT 3

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1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2 FOR THE DISTRICT NEVADA 3 CUNG LE, NATHAN QUARRY, JON FITCH, Case No. 2:15-cv-01045-RFB-BNW BRANDON VERA, LUIS JAVIER 4 VAZQUEZ, and KYLE KINGSBURY, On Behalf of Themselves and All Others Similarly 5 Situated, 6 Plaintiffs, 7 v. 8 ZUFFA, LLC, D/B/A ULTIMATE FIGHTING 9 CHAMPIONSHIP and UFC, 10 Defendant. 11 KAJAN JOHNSON and CLARENCE 12 DOLLAWAY, On Behalf of Themselves and All Case No. 2:21-cv-01189-RFB-BNW Others Similarly Situated, 13 14 Plaintiffs, 15 VS. 16 ZUFFA, LLC, TKO OPERATING COMPANY, LLC F/K/A ZUFFA PARENT LLC (D/B/A 17 ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP and 18 UFC), and ENDEAVOR GROUP HOLDINGS, INC., 19 20 Defendants. 21 22 23 JOINT DECLARATION OF ERIC L. CRAMER, RICHARD A. KOFFMAN, AND JOSEPH R. SAVERI IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR 24 PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT 25 26 27 28

Pursuant to the 28 U.S.C. §1746, we, Eric L. Cramer, Richard A. Koffman, and Joseph R. Saveri declare:

- 1. We are, respectively, partners or shareholders of the law firms of Berger Montague PC ("Berger Montague"), Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll, PLLC ("Cohen Milstein"), and Joseph Saveri Law Firm, LLP ("JSLF"). Together we have been approved as Co-Lead Class Counsel (ECF No. 839 at 79)¹ (collectively referred to herein as "Co-Lead Class Counsel")² for the class certified in *Le, et al. v. Zuffa, LLC d/b/a Ultimate Fighting Championship and UFC*, No. 15-cv-01045 (D. Nev.) (the "*Le* Action"). The *Le* Action along with *Johnson, et al. v. Zuffa, LLC, et al.*, No. 21-cv-01189 (D. Nev.) (the "*Johnson* Action"), are collectively referred to as the "Actions." Each of us has been actively involved in developing, prosecuting, and resolving the Actions, is familiar with their proceedings, and has personal knowledge of the facts and circumstances set forth herein. If called upon and sworn as witnesses, each of us would be competent to testify thereto. We respectfully submit this Joint Declaration in Support of the Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 2. These Actions began well before the December 16, 2014 filing of the *Le* Action, with extensive pre-filing investigation without the aid of government involvement or compulsory process. In all, from inception through the litigation of *Le*, the filing and litigation of *Johnson*, the Settlement, and if approved, the Settlement and allocation process, Co-Lead Class Counsel, and supporting law firms (Co-Lead Class Counsel and supporting firms collectively referred to as "Class Counsel"), will have devoted well more a decade to these Actions on a fully contingent basis. The law firms involved expended many millions of dollars in out-of-pocket costs and tens of thousands of hours of professional time with no guarantee of a recovery of any kind in a case that involved substantial risk, including the prospect of total or partial loss pre-trial, at trial, or on appeal, and risks associated with delay.

 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$  All citations to the docket are to the Le Action unless expressly indicated otherwise.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> On July 31, 2015, the Court appointed Berger Montague, Cohen Milstein, and JSLF as Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel, and Wolf, Rifkin, Shapiro, Schulman & Rabkin, LLP ("Wolf Rifkin") as Interim Liaison Counsel for the then-proposed class in the *Le* action. *See* ECF No. 140. In the Order certifying the *Le* Class, the Court appointed Wolf Rifkin as one of the Class Counsel. The lead lawyer at Wolf Rifkin was Don Springmeyer. Mr. Springmeyer changed law firms as of January 1, 2021, and his new law firm, Kemp Jones, LLP ("Kemp Jones"), took over the role of representing Plaintiffs and the *Le* Class. *See* ECF No. 780.

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Moreover, the *Le* Class Representatives<sup>3</sup> and Nathan Quarry ("Quarry"), together with the named plaintiffs in the *Johnson* Action (Kajan Johnson, Clarence Dollaway, and Tristan Connelly), collectively devoted thousands of hours in assisting in the prosecution of the Actions.

- 3. Unless otherwise defined herein, all capitalized terms have the same meanings set forth in the April 24, 2024 Settlement Agreement ("Settlement Agreement") attached as Exhibit 1. Citations to the Settlement Agreement will use the format "SA  $\P$  ."
- 4. The Settlement Agreement provides for cash payments totaling \$335 million into the UFC Settlement Fund for the benefit of the Settlement Classes, as well as significant prospective relief that would unwind some of the key conduct challenged as anticompetitive in the Actions. SA ¶¶ 5, 6. The Settlement is an excellent result for the Settlement Classes considering (a) the benefits of the Settlement, namely, substantial cash recovery and significant prospective relief, as well as (b) the substantial litigation risks Plaintiffs faced in both Actions, including significant risks associated with delay. An initial estimate of the likely distribution of the Net Settlement Fund indicates that each eligible claimant from the *Le* Class may receive, as an award from the Settlement, as much as 25% (or more) of his or her total earnings from the UFC for bouts fought during the entire *Le* Class Period. Certain claimants from the *Johnson* Settlement Class will receive as much as 10% of their lifetime earnings from the UFC for bouts fought during the *Johnson* Class Period, in addition to benefitting from the prospective relief provided. Accordingly, the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate.
- 5. Throughout this litigation, Co-Lead Class Counsel have directed and overseen the work of their own attorneys and staff, as well as the attorneys and staff of the few other firms that assisted in this litigation ("Supporting Counsel"). <sup>4</sup> Co-Lead Class Counsel have been involved in every aspect of the Actions. Co-Lead Class Counsel have collaborated to develop, initiate, litigate, and resolve the Actions, including conducting extensive pre-filing investigation without the benefit of government involvement or the ability to compel pre-complaint document production. We have overseen extensive

 $<sup>^3</sup>$  The Le Class Representatives are Cung Le, Jon Fitch, Kyle Kingsbury, Brandon Vera, and Javier Vazquez.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> "Supporting Counsel" refers to all or some of the following firms: Wolf Rifkin, Kemp Jones, Warner Angle, Clark Hill PLC, The Radice Law Firm, and/or Spector Roseman Kodroff & Willis.

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fact and expert discovery, and prepared motions and briefing on multiple dispositive and non-dispositive motions. On the settlement front, the parties retained renowned mediator, and former U.S. District Judge, Hon. Layn Phillips, to preside over the mediation process, which included, *inter alia*, three full day in-person mediation sessions spread over six years (in 2017, 2019, and 2023), and multiple follow-up engagements via phone, video conference, and otherwise. As trial approached in the *Le* Action, the parties' settlement discussions accelerated, ultimately resulting in the Settlement. Co-Lead Class Counsel presided over the Settlement negotiations, participated in drafting and editing the term sheet and long-form settlement agreement, developed the class notice and notice plan, developed the allocation plan (in conjunction with consultants and experts), and prepared all of the necessary papers for seeking preliminary approval of the Settlement. Co-Lead Class Counsel have dedicated substantial time and resources to lead the prosecution of the Actions, collectively spending tens of thousands of hours on the Actions. Supporting Counsel have also dedicated significant time and effort litigating the Actions, collectively spending many thousands of hours as well.

6. For the reasons set for the below and in the accompanying memorandum of law, the Court should grant preliminary approval of the Settlement.

#### PROSECUTION OF THE ACTIONS

#### A. Investigation and Filing of the Le Action

- 7. Class Counsel's investigation of the UFC's alleged anticompetitive conduct began prior to any inquiry by the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"). Berger Montague independently initiated an investigation into alleged anticompetitive conduct in the Mixed Martial Arts ("MMA") industry many months before filing a complaint. Berger Montague's initial investigation included analyses of the UFC's acquisition of Strikeforce, the initial FTC inquiry, the UFC's conduct toward Bellator, and the UFC's conduct toward fighters surrounding MMA video games. Berger Montague's investigation continued after the FTC refused to bring an enforcement action against the UFC relating to the UFC's acquisition of Strikeforce.
- 8. Beginning in 2014, Cohen Milstein separately initiated an investigation in conjunction with Warner Angle Hallam Jackson & Formanek PLC ("Warner Angle"). Thereafter, Berger Montague, Cohen Milstein, and Warner Angle joined forces to coordinate their efforts in the best

interests of the classes that would ultimately be proposed in the Actions. In total, Berger Montague, Cohen Milstein, and Warner Angle reasonably devoted thousands of hours to the pre-complaint investigation of this litigation. In advance of filing in the Northern District of California, Plaintiffs brought in the Joseph Saveri Law Firm to assist with the litigation of the case.

- 9. Plaintiffs Cung Le, Nathan Quarry, and Jon Fitch filed the *Le* Complaint on December 16, 2014, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. ECF No. 1. In the next few days, Class Counsel filed two additional complaints in the Northern District of California against Zuffa, LLC ("Zuffa") on behalf of Luis Javier Vazquez in the second action and Brandon Vera in the third action. *See Vazquez v. Zuffa, LLC*, No. 5:14-cv-4491, ECF No. 1 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 22, 2014); *Vera v. Zuffa, LLC*, No. 14-cv-5621, ECF No. 1 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 24, 2014). On February 4, 2015, another firm filed a similar action in the Northern District of California with JSLF serving as local counsel to coordinate that action with Co-Lead Class Counsel's actions. *See Ruediger v. Zuffa, LLC*, No. 5:15-cv-521 (N.D. Cal.). Co-Lead Class Counsel moved to relate each of these later-filed actions to the *Le* Action (*Le* Action, ECF Nos. 9, 13, 49), and then moved to consolidate all four of these actions together for pre-trial purposes. <sup>5</sup> ECF No. 52. After the *Le* Action was transferred to this District, this Court granted consolidation of the various matters into the *Le* Action on June 11, 2015. ECF No. 101.
- 10. Following Plaintiffs' filing of the *Le* Action, the FTC again opened an inquiry into Zuffa's conduct in the MMA industry. But after a brief investigation, the FTC sent Zuffa a letter stating that "[u]pon further review of this matter, it now appears that no further action is warranted by the Commission at this time." *See Federal Trade Commission ends second investigation of UFC*, MMA Fighting (Nov. 24, 2015), *available at* https://www.mmafighting.com/2015/11/24/9796478/federal-trade-commission-ends-second-investigation-of-ufc.

#### B. Motions to Dismiss, to Transfer Venue and to Stay Discovery

11. On January 30, 2015, Zuffa moved to transfer the *Le* Action from the United States District Court for the Northern District of California (where Plaintiffs had filed and where several

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> On March 20, 2015, Class Counsel filed a fourth complaint on behalf of Kyle Kingsbury as a named plaintiff. *Kingsbury v. Zuffa, LLC*, No. 5:15-cv-1324, ECF No. 1 (N.D. Cal.) ("Kingsbury Action"). Plaintiffs then moved to relate the *Kingsbury* Action to the *Le* Action. *Le* Action, ECF No. 67 (Mar. 23, 2015). The Court granted Plaintiffs' motion. ECF No. 68.

plaintiffs resided) to the United States District Court for the District of Nevada, where Zuffa was based. See ECF No. 31. Plaintiffs opposed the transfer motion, ECF No. 69, including by collecting and presenting materials properly subject to judicial notice evidencing MMA bouts taking place in the Northern District of California and significant interest in MMA in that District. See ECF No. 70. On June 2, 2015, the court granted the transfer motion, resulting in transfer to this Court. ECF No. 93.

- 12. While the motion to transfer venue was pending, Zuffa moved to dismiss the complaints, ECF No. 64 (Feb. 27, 2015), relying in part on a Request for Judicial Notice of various records of state agencies that regulate MMA events, a form 10-K from Viacom, Inc. (which then owned the MMA promotion Bellator), and the letter from the FTC closing its inquiry into the Strikeforce acquisition. ECF No. 65 (Feb. 27, 2015). Plaintiffs filed a consolidated opposition brief, ECF No. 71 (Apr. 10, 2015), and Plaintiffs' own Request for Judicial Notice of, *inter alia*, Zuffa's statements on its own website and elsewhere on the internet as well as an analyst report from Moody's Investor Service. ECF No. 72 (Apr. 10, 2015).
- 13. After filing its reply briefs in support of its motions to dismiss (ECF No. 82) and transfer (ECF No. 79) in the Northern District of California, Zuffa filed a motion to stay discovery until resolution of the motions to transfer and dismiss. ECF No. 87. Plaintiffs and Zuffa negotiated a stipulation to stay discovery pending resolution of the transfer motion and further stipulated that if the transfer motion were granted, the parties' existing briefing on the motion to dismiss would be sufficient for this Court to adjudicate the issues. ECF No. 91. The Court in the Northern District of California granted the motion to transfer to this District on June 2, 2015. ECF No. 93. Because the motion to transfer was granted, this Court considered Zuffa's motion to dismiss that the parties had briefed in the Northern District of California.
- 14. On September 25, 2015, the undersigned counsel from Berger Montague argued Plaintiffs' opposition to Zuffa's motion to dismiss in this Court. *See* ECF No. 186. The Court denied Zuffa's motion from the bench on September 25, 2015, *id.*, issuing a written Order on October 19, 2016. ECF No. 314. The Court ruled that discovery would begin at once, mooting Zuffa's motion to stay. The parties began fact discovery as of September 25, 2015.
  - 15. Plaintiffs filed their Consolidated Amended Complaint on December 18, 2015, ECF No.

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208, which Zuffa answered on January 19, 2016. ECF No. 212.

## C. Fact Discovery in the Le Action

- 16. Co-Lead Class Counsel, along with Supporting Counsel, continued to litigate the case aggressively, focusing on voluminous and complex fact discovery. It was through this discovery that Plaintiffs built the foundations for (a) class certification, (b) Plaintiffs' expert reports, (c) oppositions to Defendants' summary judgment and *Daubert* motions, (d) the presentations of evidence at any jury trial in this matter, and (e) defense of any judgment on appeal that may have arisen.
- 17. Co-Lead Class Counsel effectively managed the prosecution of this litigation throughout discovery, holding weekly conference calls among Co-Lead Class Counsel, Liaison Counsel at Wolf Rifkin (later Kemp Jones), and Warner Angle to discuss and organize discovery tasks, monitor progress among tasks, and plan litigation strategy.
- 18. In addition, each month, Co-Lead Class Counsel invited Supporting Counsel at the Radice Law Firm and Spector Roseman & Kodroff PC to join the call to share updates on their tasks and to ensure that those firms were up-to-date on strategy and other case matters.
- 19. Following that "all-counsel" call each month, Co-Lead Class Counsel, Liaison Counsel, and Warner Angle invited the *Le* Class Representatives and Quarry to join the calls so that the *Le* Class Representatives and Quarry could share their knowledge about relevant facts and be continually apprised of the progress of the litigation.

#### i. Document and Data Preservation Efforts

- 20. Almost immediately upon filing, Plaintiffs took steps to ensure that the UFC and certain third parties preserved relevant electronically stored data and information ("ESI").
- 21. On December 17, 2014, JSLF sent a preservation letter to the UFC regarding the need to preserve ESI.
- 22. On or about December 18, 2014, Plaintiffs observed that certain social media posts of Dana White that Settlement Class Counsel had reviewed prior to initiating the *Le* Action appeared to become unavailable in the days after filing. JSLF sent a preservation letter to Twitter on December 18, 2014 concerning these and other posts of Dana White and the UFC, and Plaintiffs issued subpoenas to

Twitter (n/k/a X) and Google in January 2015 to ensure that Google and Twitter preserved certain YouTube videos and Twitter posts.

23. Further, as discussed in more detail *infra*, Berger Montague doggedly pursued discovery material from Zuffa, ultimately ensuring that a significant volume of critical documents that Zuffa had not otherwise retained, and believed had been destroyed, could be located from a third-party document vendor from a separate matter and produced in the *Le* Action.

## ii. Written Discovery with Zuffa

- 24. Plaintiffs and Zuffa held an in-person Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) conference on April 13, 2015. During that meet and confer, the parties negotiated terms for a Stipulation concerning ESI (filed at ECF No. 160), and most of the terms of a stipulated Protective Order. However, the parties were unable to agree to certain terms, which resulted in the parties briefing the issues in a joint status report. See ECF No. 185. Ultimately, Plaintiffs prevailed, with Magistrate Judge Peggy A. Leen entering an Order in Plaintiffs favor as to the disputed issues. See ECF No. 190.
- 25. Plaintiffs served their Initial Disclosures pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1) on May 8, 2015. With the assistance of the intensive investigation of supporting counsel at Warner Angle, Plaintiffs identified more than 100 individuals with discoverable information that Plaintiffs believed they may use to prove their claims, including MMA fighters, agents and managers, and rival promoters.
- 26. Plaintiffs also served their First Set of Interrogatories on Zuffa on August 11, 2015, focusing the requests on identifying (1) class member fighters, (2) the identity of Zuffa employees, executives, and agents that may have discoverable information, and (3) the identity of online social media, blogs, networks, and other online accounts that Zuffa maintains so that Plaintiffs could try to ensure preservation of materials stored in those locations.
- 27. Plaintiffs served their First Set of Requests for Production of Documents on April 26, 2015, and quickly set to work negotiating the scope of Zuffa's document discovery. Berger Montague led the meet and confers with Zuffa, engaging in regular teleconferences and letter exchanges to negotiate the relevant time period applicable to document discovery, the number and identity of custodians, and the search terms to be applied to the documents Zuffa collected.

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- 28. Berger Montague worked extensively with Zuffa's counsel to negotiate appropriate search terms that Zuffa would use to cull the documents it collected for production to Plaintiffs.
- 29. Zuffa's first offer of search terms was a list of 91 words, apparently drawn only from Plaintiffs' Complaint, and including terms not used in common parlance such as "monopsony" and "class action." To counter Zuffa's proposal, Berger Montague compiled thousands of terms for testing. Berger Montague drew these terms from Zuffa's early production of materials that Zuffa had produced to the FTC in connection with the FTC's 2012 inquiry into the Strikeforce acquisition as well as fighter names and nicknames. Zuffa complained that these terms returned too high of a percentage of the total document collection.
  - 30. Berger Montague commenced to negotiate the proper terms through an iterative process:
    - a. The parties exchanged search term proposals, Zuffa would run the search terms and deliver to Berger Montague for analysis the hit counts of both Zuffa's proposed search terms and Berger Montague's proposed search terms, and the parties would then exchange proposals for next steps.
    - b. Berger Montague negotiated the production of limited sets of documents that hit on particular search terms that Zuffa claimed were overbroad and then used the information from those documents to try to narrow the terms Berger Montague proposed for the next round.
    - c. Berger Montague reviewed these limited document sets to identify how the terms were applying to draw an overbroad selection. Berger Montague then analyzed how revisions to the Plaintiffs' search term proposals would apply to discriminate between the irrelevant documents Zuffa claimed to want to withhold, while still identifying the relevant and critical discovery the search terms targeted in the first place. Among other things, Berger Montague ran the proposed search terms over the existing production and then some potential revisions to the search terms to identify what proportion of documents would be excluded by a potential revision. Berger Montague then reviewed the results to determine whether documents that Plaintiffs' document reviewers had coded as relevant or "hot" had been excluded by the revision. Berger Montague then developed new revisions as appropriate and re-ran this process until the proposed search terms significantly reduced the number of documents hitting on the terms without losing the important, relevant material.
    - d. This process and the related dealings between the parties repeated over the course of several months—from December 2015 to May 2016—and numerous iterations of terms and revisions.
- 31. In addition to these direct negotiations, Plaintiffs and Zuffa attended status conferences with the Court during this period, including on September 30, 2015, November 17, 2015, December 8,

2015, January 26, 2016, February 23, 2016, and May 17, 2016, as the parties litigated the scope of Zuffa's document production. *See* ECF Nos. 190, 200, 207, 214, 225, 264 (relevant status conference minute orders).

- 32. Prior to each of these status conferences, the parties prepared detailed joint status reports to apprise the Court of updates on the parties' negotiations and efforts to locate discovery materials. *See* ECF Nos. 185, 199, 206, 213, 218, 244, 254. These status reports covered hundreds of pages of argument on the status of negotiations and articulated the parties' positions and discovery disputes. Because the parties filed these status reports jointly, the process required significant coordination. To complete the status reports, Berger Montague and Zuffa's counsel first held serial meet and confer teleconferences as the deadlines drew near to try to resolve as many disputed issues as possible. Following these calls, Berger Montague and Zuffa's counsel would exchange detailed meet and confer correspondence confirming the substance of the teleconferences, updating on deliverables promised during the calls, further articulating the parties' positions and responses, and proposing further steps prior to the next call.
- 33. Prior to the February 23, 2016 and May 17, 2016 status conferences, the parties engaged experts on document search processes. Plaintiffs retained Charles Kellner to prepare two reports concerning search terms for Zuffa's document collection. *See* ECF Nos. 221, 244-1. Mr. Kellner is a consultant specializing in assisting attorneys with document search processes and methods. *See* ECF No. 221 ¶¶1-8. Berger Montague worked with Mr. Kellner to develop Plaintiffs' arguments and positions in these reports and related briefing. Plaintiffs submitted Mr. Kellner's report to Judge Leen. Following the parties' briefing and expert reports on these search term issues, the Court adopted Plaintiffs' position on June 3, 2016. *See* ECF No. 272.
- 34. Plaintiffs expended significant efforts to obtain documents relating to the early portion of the alleged anticompetitive scheme, *i.e.*, from 2005 to 2013. During the parties' initial discussions concerning document preservation and further meet and confers following service of Plaintiffs' RFPs, it became clear that Zuffa's standard document destruction protocols caused the destruction of most documents (in particular, emails and correspondence) from the period before mid-2014. Because Plaintiffs' Complaint alleged that Zuffa's anticompetitive scheme had commenced no later than 2006,

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the absence of document discovery from before mid-2014 could have undercut Plaintiffs' ability to prove significant aspects of their case. As a result, Berger Montague focused early discovery efforts on identifying potential custodians who had significant volumes of documents saved and available from this pre-2014 time-period that were outside the scope of Zuffa's document destruction protocol. Berger Montague also repeatedly pressed Zuffa's counsel to take efforts to locate the documents that Zuffa had collected for review and production to the FTC in connection with the FTC's inquiry into Zuffa's acquisition of MMA promoter Strikeforce.

- 35. Plaintiffs' efforts yielded a significant volume of documents. Zuffa ultimately produced nearly 500,000 documents dated before January 1, 2014, including almost 300,000 dated before December 31, 2010, and approximately 60,000 documents dated before December 31, 2009. These early case materials comprised critical components of Plaintiffs' expert reports, class certification record, and the ultimate proof of their claims on summary judgment.
- 36. Plaintiffs served their Second Set of Requests for Production of Documents on Zuffa on August 8, 2016. These "Second RFPs" sought documents relating to Zuffa's efforts to sell itself in 2016, as well as documents relating to, and analyzing, the sale itself. Further, the Second RFPs sought documents concerning discrete issues that Plaintiffs' First RFPs and third-party subpoenas uncovered.
- 37. Ultimately, through Plaintiffs' efforts to obtain document discovery, Zuffa produced more than 775,000 documents comprising more than 3 million pages.
- 38. Following a competitive bidding process, Co-Lead Class Counsel engaged a document hosting vendor (CasePoint) to store and manage these documents (as well as documents collected from Plaintiffs and third parties).<sup>6</sup>
- 39. Plaintiffs reviewed these documents using a variety of techniques. Plaintiffs applied technology assisted review techniques ("TAR") to sort and categorize the materials and facilitate an efficient review. Plaintiffs segregated various documents reflecting contracts between the UFC and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> After the August/September 2019 Evidentiary Hearing on Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Certification (discussed *infra*), Co-Lead Class Counsel took the document production and coding offline and stored it on hard drives so as to cease incurring monthly hosting charges. After the Court's Order certifying the *Le* Class in August 2023, Co-Lead Class Counsel engaged a different hosting vendor, Everlaw, to re-load the document production and coding for summary judgment and in preparation for trial.

fighters or others for expert review using these TAR techniques, and further identified critical documents at an early stage to allow Plaintiffs to focus discovery efforts going forward.

40. Co-Lead Class Counsel organized a document review drawing from internal resources

- as well as reviewers at Supporting Firms. Co-Lead Class Counsel developed a coding panel for document reviewers and then trained the reviewers in the case and coding instructions. Co-Lead Class Counsel managed the review process, holding regular teleconferences with the document reviewers to ensure that issues the reviewers observed could be timely communicated and discussed among Co-Lead Class Counsel and the reviewers. Warner Angle also kept a log of the documents that document reviewers coded as "hot," and regularly circulated that log to Co-Lead Class Counsel. Co-Lead Class Counsel reviewed the log of "hot" documents and raised issues (such as coding documents as "hot" that were not "hot"), and flagging issues for reviewers to keep in mind as they emerged.
- 41. In addition to the foregoing, Plaintiffs issued three additional sets of Interrogatories and five sets of Requests for Admission (totaling 267 Requests for Admission not counting subparts). These materials sought admissions and information on wide-ranging aspects of the case including, without limitation, so-called "contention interrogatories" that sought explication of Zuffa's stated affirmative defenses and also required that Zuffa admit to the authenticity of video clips in which its executives made statements against their interests that were relevant to Plaintiffs' claims and Zuffa's defenses (see discussion infra).
- 42. Among the analytical projects Co-Lead Class Counsel, and Berger Montague in particular, undertook in connection with written discovery from Zuffa was an analysis of the tens of thousands of text messages Zuffa produced. Berger Montague identified the text productions of custodians in the production and compiled those texts for specific analyses, organizing the produced text messages in various ways to identify text messages on similar subject matter based on dates and individuals involved, and for other purposes. Most notably, Berger Montague compiled all text messages Zuffa produced to or from a phone used by UFC President Dana White (Mr. White used multiple phones at any one time). Through this analysis, Berger Montague determined that a significant proportion of the text messages Mr. White sent or received had been deleted or otherwise destroyed. Specifically, of the more than 8,100 texts sent to or from a phone used by UFC President Dana White

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in the production, Berger Montague's analysis reflected that more than 1,900 of those texts (nearly 25%) were not collected from Dana White's devices.

43. In response, Berger Montague initiated a meet and confer process with Zuffa to learn more about Mr. White's cellphone usage. Ultimately, Plaintiffs brought the issue to the Court for resolution. *See* ECF Nos. 395, 397. Although Plaintiffs did not obtain relief for spoliation through that motion, *see* ECF No. 422, litigation of the issue generated compelling evidence for the cross-examination of Dana White regarding spoliation and credibility. By pressing these questions, Plaintiffs (1) caused Dana White to submit a sworn declaration that appeared to be internally inconsistent, (2) examined Mr. White on those alleged inconsistencies at his deposition leading to what Plaintiffs believe was damaging testimony relating to his alleged inability to reconcile those inconsistencies, and (3) created, through that testimony and the absence of the phone records from these cellphones, a basis for arguing spoliation at trial and for potentially substantially undermining Mr. White's credibility before the jury.

#### iii. Third Party Document Subpoenas

44. In addition to Plaintiffs' efforts to obtain documents directly from Zuffa, Plaintiffs also issued over 50 document subpoenas to third parties. These third parties included: (1) managers and agents for various MMA fighters; (2) MMA promotions and the owners of past MMA promotions (including, without limitation, Strikeforce, Bellator, One Championship, International Fight League, World Series of Fighting, Affliction, World Fighting Alliance, Invicta, Legacy FC, and Titan FC); (3) entities (and their law firms) that sought to acquire Zuffa in 2016, including WME-IMG Endeavor that ultimately did acquire Zuffa in 2016; (4) financial institutions that worked on behalf of Zuffa over the years and those that worked on behalf of the entities that sought to acquire Zuffa in 2016; and (5) Mercer, an entity that undertook a fighter compensation study at Zuffa's behest. We provide the scope of the third parties that Plaintiffs targeted with subpoenas that were actively pursued in the below table:

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1	#	ENTITY <sup>7</sup>	ENTITY TYPE
2	1	Affliction	MMA Promoter and MMA Fighter Sponsor
3	2	Ali Abdel-Aziz	MMA Fighter Manager and Matchmaker for MMA Promoter
4	3	American Top Team	MMA Fighter Manager
5	4	AXS TV	MMA Broadcaster and Acquirer of MMA Promotion Assets
6	5	Barclays PLC	Financial Institution relating to Potential Zuffa Acquisition
7	6	Bellator	MMA Promoter
8	7	Bob Meyrowitz	Former owner of the UFC
9	8	Brian Butler-Au	Fighter Manager
	9	Brian Hamper	Fighter Manager
10	10	Cindy Ortiz	MMA Fan Appearing in Zuffa-Produced Emails
11	11	Citibank, N.A.	Financial Institution
12	12	Credit Suisse	Financial Institution relating to Potential Zuffa Acquisition
	13	David Martin, Martin Advisory Group, LLC	MMA Fighter Manager
13	14	Deutsche Bank Securities, Inc.	Financial Institution; Financial Institution relating to Potential Zuffa Acquisition
14	15	Deutsche Bank Trust Co.	Financial Institution
15	16	Ed Fishman	MMA Fighter Manager
16	17	Ed Soares	MMA Promoter and MMA Fighter Manager
17	18	Fighter Tribe Management	MMA Fighter Manager
18	19	First Round Management	MMA Fighter Manager
19	20	Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP	Law Firm subpoenaed relating to Potential Zuffa Acquisition
20	21	Gareb Shamus	MMA Promoter
20	22	Gary Ibarra	MMA Fighter Manager
21	23	George Prajin	MMA Fighter Manager
22	24	Glenn Robinson	MMA Fighter Manager and MMA Fighter Sponsor
23	25	Goldman Sachs & Co.	Financial Institution relating to Potential Zuffa Acquisition
23	26	Greg Jamison	MMA Promoter
24	27	Invicta	MMA Promoter
25	28	J.P. Mogan Chase & Co.	Financial Institution relating to Potential Zuffa Acquisition
26	29	Jeff Clark	MMA Fighter Manager
	30	Jeremy Lappen	MMA Promoter; MMA Fighter Manager
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Note that in some circumstances, Plaintiffs served an entity and certain individuals affiliated with that entity, and in other circumstances, Plaintiffs served only the entity or only individuals.

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1	#	ENTITY <sup>7</sup>	ENTITY TYPE				
2	31	Ken Pavia	MMA Fighter Manager				
3	32	Kirkland & Ellis LLP	Law Firm subpoenaed relating to Potential Zuffa Acquisition				
4	33	KKR Capital Markets LLC	Financial Institution relating to Potential Zuffa Acquisition				
5	34	Kurt Otto	Principal of MMA Promoter				
	35	Legacy Fighting Championship	MMA Promoter				
6	36	Leo Khorolinsky	MMA Fighter Manager				
7	37	Lex McMahon	MMA Promoter and MMA Fighter Manager				
<i>'</i>	38	Mercer (US), Inc.	Consultant				
8	39	Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP	Law Firm subpoenaed relating to Potential Zuffa Acquisition				
9	40	MMA Inc.	MMA Fighter Manager				
10	41	Monte Cox	MMA Fighter Manager				
	42	Moody's Financial Services, Inc.	Financial Rating Institution				
11	43	MSD Capital L.P.	Financial Institution relating to Potential Zuffa Acquisition				
12	44	Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP	Law Firm subpoenaed relating to Potential Zuffa Acquisition				
13	45	Proskauer Rose LLP	Law Firm subpoenaed relating to Potential Zuffa Acquisition				
14	46	Resurrection Fighting Alliance	MMA Promoter				
1.5	47	Samuel Spira	Attorney				
15	48	Sharks Sports & Entertainment	MMA Promoter				
16	49	Shu Hirata	MMA Fighter Manager				
17	50	Silver Lake Partners	Potential Zuffa Acquirer				
18	51	Simpson Thatcher & Bartlett LLP	Law Firm subpoenaed relating to Potential Zuffa Acquisition				
10	52	Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC	Financial Rating Institution				
19	53	The Blackstone Group L.P.	Potential Zuffa Acquirer				
20	54	The Raine Group LLC	Consultant relating to Potential Zuffa Acquisition				
20	55	Titan FC	MMA Promoter				
21	56	VFD Marketing	MMA Fighter Manager				
22	57	William Morris Endeavor Entertainment LLC	Potential Zuffa Acquirer				
	58	World Series of Fighting	MMA Promoter				
23	59	Zinkin Entertainment (DeWayne Zinkin & Bob Cook)	MMA Fighter Manager				
	45 Through these subnoance Plaintiffs ultimately obtained hundreds of thousands of						

45. Through these subpoenas, Plaintiffs ultimately obtained hundreds of thousands of additional pages of material, including documents from the likes of Deutsche Bank and WME-IMG, which in Plaintiffs' view provided evidence of Zuffa's monopsony and monopoly power and its alleged ability to control fighter compensation. Plaintiffs also uncovered key financials from other MMA promoters that assisted in Plaintiffs' experts' analyses of market share and market power. And

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Plaintiffs received other key correspondence that Plaintiffs believed evidenced Zuffa's alleged coercive negotiation tactics.

- 46. Class Counsel tracked down the subpoenaed parties and entities and met and conferred with them to obtain productions of documents. In several cases, Plaintiffs had to litigate with the subpoena recipients to obtain productions. First, AXS TV LLC, an organization that, *inter alia*, purchased the assets of defunct MMA promoter International Fight League ("IFL"), sought to quash Plaintiffs' document subpoena. *See In re: Subpoena to Non-Party AXS TV LLC, Lee [sic] v. Zuffa, LLC*, No. 3:16-mc-12 (N.D. Tex.). Following that motion to quash, JSLF prepared to respond while continuing to negotiate with AXS TV, ultimately agreeing to a "Third Party Production Protocol" that resolved the motion. *See id.* at ECF No. 12. AXS produced almost 9,000 documents pursuant to that protocol.
- 47. In addition to fighting the document subpoena, AXS TV LLC also moved to quash Plaintiffs' deposition subpoena of Mark Cuban. See In re: Subpoena to Non-Party Mark Cuban, Lee [sic] v. Zuffa, LLC, No. 3:17-mc-27 (N.D. Tex.). JSLF responded to the motion to quash in the action in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas. See id. at ECF Nos. 8 & 10. Ultimately, the Texas District Court granted the motion to quash without prejudice should the depositions of Andrew Simon (another AXS TV executive) and Dana White not have sufficiently covered the expected subject matter of the Mark Cuban deposition. Id. at ECF No. 20.
- 48. Bellator also fought Plaintiffs' document subpoena. *See In re Subpoena of Bellator Sport Worldwide, LLC, Le v. Zuffa, LLC*, No. 2:17-mc-16 (C.D. Cal.). Prior to responding, Class Counsel (JSLF in particular) tried to negotiate Bellator's production, including via ten teleconferences, four meet and confer letters, and 79 emails. Through these efforts, Plaintiffs were able to resolve many of the disputed issues concerning Plaintiffs' subpoena, but were unable to reach agreement on documents relating to Bellator's fighter contract documents and related contract negotiation materials and documents relating to Bellator's cost and revenue information. JSLF then drafted and filed a response to Bellator's motion to quash the subpoena. *See id.*, ECF No. 26-1 (Mar. 8, 2017). The subpoena dispute was ultimately transferred to this Court on Zuffa's motion and adjudicated here. *See Le v. Zuffa, LLC*, No. 2:17-cv-849 (D. Nev.). Following argument, at which JSLF presented for

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Plaintiffs, the Court ordered Bellator to produce a sample of anonymized fighter contracts (20% of Bellator's contracts) as well as Bellator's financials, including profit and loss statements through March 2017. No. 2:17-cv-849, ECF No. 55 (D. Nev. June 13, 2017). The Bellator financials Co-Lead Class Counsel ultimately obtained from Bellator proved critical to Plaintiffs' alleged showing that the most significant of the UFC's purported rivals paled in comparison to the UFC, generating just a fraction of the UFC's revenues and paying a substantially higher proportion of those revenues to fighters.

- 49. One Championship, another MMA promoter (located in Singapore), similarly fought Plaintiffs' subpoena and required significant efforts to obtain documents. First, Plaintiffs filed a motion for issuance of Letters Rogatory to Group One Holdings Pte. Ltd. (One Championship's parent in Singapore) in this Court. See Le v. Zuffa, LLC, No. 15-cv-1045, ECF No. 433 (D. Nev. June 20, 2017). The Court granted that request, ECF No. 440, and issued the letter, ECF No. 441. While that effort was pending, Plaintiffs filed an action against one of the promoter's domestic agents and One Championship in the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington. See Motion to Compel, In re Subpoenas of Matt Hume, Le v. Zuffa, LLC, No. 2:17-cv-1104, ECF No. 1 (W.D. Wash. July 19, 2017). Plaintiffs then successfully moved to transfer the litigation of the action back to this Court. Id. at ECF Nos. 24, 25; see also Le v. Zuffa, LLC, No. 15-cv-1045, ECF No. 506 (D. Nev. Oct. 13, 2017) (Le Plaintiffs' Notice of Related Case alerting the Court that the matter had been transferred). On November 16, 2017, JSLF argued in support of the motion to compel and in opposition to the domestic agent's motion to quash. See In re Subpoenas of Matt Hume, Le v. Zuffa, LLC, No. 2:17-cv-2657, ECF No. 41 (D. Nev. Dec. 2, 2017). The Court denied Plaintiffs the requested documents and limited the scope of the requested deposition. *Id.* at 41-42.
- 50. Boxing promoter Top Rank, Inc. also fought to quash Plaintiffs' subpoenas for documents and for the deposition of Top Rank President Robert Arum. *See* ECF No. 470 & 497. Supporting counsel at Warner Angle, in consultation with Co-Lead Class Counsel, drafted the motion to compel concerning the document subpoena and the deposition subpoena, and then met and conferred with counsel from Top Rank to resolve the issue without Court intervention.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Ultimately, the Supreme Court of Singapore denied the request. *See In re Subpoenas of Matt Hume, Le v. Zuffa, LLC*, No. 2:17-cv-2657, ECF No. 41, at 5 (D. Nev. Dec. 2, 2017).

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#### iv. Litigating Privilege and Work Product Claims

- 51. Zuffa sought to withhold numerous documents, and redact many others, based on assertions of attorney-client privilege and the attorney work product doctrine. Plaintiffs disputed Zuffa's decision to withhold or redact many documents on these grounds.
- 52. After Zuffa first produced its privilege log in this case (containing more than 30,000 entries) on April 7, 2017, Berger Montague analyzed the log and pursued a meet and confer via letter concerning deficiencies in the log's description of documents. *See* ECF No. 443-3 (describing the deficiencies). In response to Berger Montague's letter, Zuffa removed its privilege assertions over certain entries and amended its privilege log for other entries. *See* ECF No. 443-4. JSLF then analyzed the subsequent iteration of the privilege log (which also contained tens of thousands of entries). JSLF argued the issues with the privilege log to the Court. ECF No. 502. Through this meet and confer process, Zuffa produced more than 10,000 documents that had either been withheld in full or redacted.
- 53. In addition to Plaintiffs' work regarding the privilege log, Plaintiffs litigated several challenges to Zuffa's efforts to claw back and/or shield specific materials from production.
- 54. Early on in discovery, Berger Montague discovered a production error by Zuffa: certain documents had slipsheets in the production reflecting that the documents had been withheld on the basis of privilege, but the OCR-ed text of the documents had nevertheless been produced to Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs quickly alerted Zuffa of the error. However, in the process of Plaintiffs' discovery of the issue, Plaintiffs noted that one of the documents was not properly subject to protection of the attorney-client privilege. Specifically, Plaintiffs identified an email from Zuffa's outside counsel concerning the business purposes behind Zuffa's acquisition of Pride, another MMA promotion. *See generally* ECF No. 229 (motion to challenge the privilege designation of the email). Berger Montague then led a meet and confer in an effort to persuade Zuffa not to withhold the document. When the parties reached an impasse, JSLF prepared a motion to challenge the privilege designation. *Id.* Plaintiffs prevailed on that motion. *See* ECF No. 270. This document ultimately featured prominently in one of Plaintiffs' key expert economic reports, *see* Expert Report of Hal J. Singer, Ph.D., ECF No. 926-3, ¶43, Plaintiffs' motion for class certification, ECF No. 518 at 10, and Plaintiffs' summary judgment oppositions, ECF No. 596 at 10 & ECF No. 926 at 10.

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- 55. Plaintiffs challenged other of Zuffa's privilege assertions as well.
- 56. On August 31, 2016, JSLF drafted, with Berger Montague's assistance, a motion to challenge Zuffa's assertion of work product protection over documents relating to a consultant Zuffa engaged to study its fighter compensation. See ECF No. 282 & 303. Plaintiffs prevailed on the motion, resulting in the production of the fighter compensation study and various drafts. See ECF No. 422. These compensation study documents featured prominently in Plaintiffs' proof and briefing, given that, in them, Zuffa's consultant Mercer compared the percentage of revenues paid to athletes by other sports organizations to the percentage of revenues Zuffa paid to UFC fighters. Plaintiffs' sports economics expert, Prof. Andrew Zimbalist, discussed and cited prominently the Mercer fighter compensation study that Plaintiffs received only because of this work product challenge. See, e.g., Expert Report of Andrew Zimbalist, ECF No. 596-7, ¶108, Expert Rebuttal Report of Andrew Zimbalist, ECF No. 596-8, ¶56 & n.104. And Plaintiffs relied on these materials, inter alia, in opposing Zuffa's Daubert motions, see, e.g., ECF No. 534 at 53. In particular, Plaintiffs cited to the Mercer study, among other materials, to support their argument that wage share was an appropriate metric and that certain other professional sports organizations were not appropriate comparators.
- 57. On December 15, 2016, JSLF led Plaintiffs' briefing of a challenge to Zuffa's assertion of privilege over a group of documents discussing Zuffa's contract negotiations with MMA fighters. ECF Nos. 320 & 334. JSLF then argued these motions before the Court on February 7, 2017. *See* ECF No. 353. The Court granted Plaintiffs' motion as to the majority of the challenged documents. *Id.*; ECF No. 359.

#### v. Fact Depositions

58. Co-Lead Class Counsel, as well as firms acting under our direction, collectively examined nearly 30 individual fact witnesses in depositions (in addition to seven days of testimony of Zuffa's Rule 30(b)(6) designees). Plaintiffs took the first fact deposition in November 2016 (a deposition pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6)) and the last fact deposition in August 2017. Almost all of these depositions lasted for a full business day or longer; the deposition of Mr. White lasted two days. An additional challenge in taking these depositions was that certain fact witnesses were also

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designated as 30(b)(6) witnesses, requiring preparation to identify and deploy documents and ask questions in both the witness's individual and corporate capacities.

59. In preparation for the many important fact depositions in this case, Co-Lead Class Counsel (a) identified key documents to be used at each deposition, (b) prepared extensive deposition outlines, (c) reviewed publicly available information, including hundreds of hours of videos, interviews, podcasts and other materials featuring the witnesses or related matters, and (d) and coordinated deposition strategy and questioning with Co-Lead Counsel, experts, and the *Le* Class Representatives and Quarry.

#### a. Depositions of Zuffa's Current and Former Employees

60. The fact depositions of Zuffa's witnesses are set forth in the below table, including the witness's name, deposition date(s), and the participating attorneys (and attorney roles):

#	WITNESS	DATE(S)	PRIMARY PLAINTIFFS' ATTORNEY EXAMINING	SUPPORTING ATTORNEY (IF ANY)	LOCATION
1	Denitza Batchvarova	1/25/2017	Daniel Silverman Cohen Milstein	Kevin Rayhill JSLF	Las Vegas, NV
2	Nakisa Bidarian	5/5/2017	Matthew Weiler JSLF		Las Vegas, NV
3	Peter Dropick (30(b)(6))	12/1/2016	Daniel Silverman Cohen Milstein	Patrick F. Madden Berger Montague	Las Vegas, NV
4	Peter Dropick (30(b)(1))	5/4/2017	Joseph Saveri JSLF	Matthew Weiler JSLF	Las Vegas, NV
5	Ike Lawrence Epstein (30(b)(6))	12/2/2016	Matthew Weiler JSLF	Patrick F. Madden Berger Montague	Las Vegas, NV
6	Ike Lawrence Epstein (30(b)(1))	5/26/2017	Joseph Saveri JSLF	Matthew Weiler JSLF	Las Vegas, NV
7	Ike Lawrence Epstein (30(b)(6))	7/21/2017	Daniel Silverman Cohen Milstein		Las Vegas, NV
8	Ike Lawrence Epstein (30(b)(6))	8/15/2017	Kevin Rayhill JSLF	Jiamie Chen JSLF	Las Vegas, NV
9	Lorenzo Fertitta	3/23/2017	Michael C. Dell'Angelo Berger Montague	Patrick F. Madden Berger Montague	Las Vegas, NV
10	Kirk Hendrick (30(b)(6))	11/29/2016 11/30/2016	Eric L. Cramer Berger Montague	Patrick F. Madden Berger Montague	Las Vegas, NV
11	Kirk Hendrick (30(b)(1))	7/17/2017	Patrick F. Madden Berger Montague		Las Vegas, NV
12	John Hertig	4/27/2017	Matthew Weiler JSLF	Kevin Rayhill JSLF	Las Vegas, NV
13	Tracy Long	1/26/2017	Kevin Rayhill JSLF	Matthew Weiler JSLF	Las Vegas, NV
14	Michael Mersch	7/15/2017	Eric L. Cramer Berger Montague	Patrick F. Madden Berger Montague	Las Vegas, NV

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#	WITNESS	DATE(S)	PRIMARY PLAINTIFFS' ATTORNEY EXAMINING	SUPPORTING ATTORNEY (IF ANY)	LOCATION
15	Michael Mossholder	11/30/2016	Daniel Silverman	Patrick F. Madden	Las Vegas, NV
	(30(b)(6))	12/1/2016	Cohen Milstein	Berger Montague	
16	John Mulkey	4/19/2017	Matthew Weiler JSLF	Kevin Rayhill JSLF	Las Vegas, NV
17	Michael Pine	2/7/2017	Daniel Silverman Cohen Milstein		Nashville, TN
18	Jeff Quinn (30(b)(6))	7/27/2017	Patrick F. Madden Berger Montague	Michael C. Dell'Angelo Berger Montague	Las Vegas, NV
19	Sean Shelby	4/12/2017	Patrick F. Madden Berger Montague	Robert Maysey Warner Angle	Las Vegas, NV
20	Joseph Silva	6/7/2017	Eric L. Cramer Berger Montague	Patrick F. Madden Berger Montague	Richmond, VA
21	Dana White	8/9/2017 8/10/2017	Michael C. Dell'Angelo Berger Montague	Richard Koffman Cohen Milstein	Las Vegas, NV
22	Marshall Zelaznik	2/8/2017	Kevin Rayhill JSLF	Matthew Weiler JSLF	Las Vegas, NV

# b. Depositions of Third Parties

61. The fact depositions of third-party witnesses are set forth in the below table, including the witness's name, affiliation, deposition date(s), and the participating attorneys (and attorney roles):

#	WITNESS	AFFILIATION	DATE(S)	PRIMARY PLAINTIFFS' ATTORNEY EXAMINING	SUPPORTING ATTORNEY (IF ANY)	LOCATION
1	Jeffrey Aronson	Titan FC	4/25/2017	Daniel Silverman Cohen Milstein		Palm Beach Gardens, FL
2	Robert Arum	Top Rank, Inc.	10/17/2017	Robert Maysey Warner Angle	Daniel Silverman Cohen Milstein	Los Angeles, CA
3	Thomas Atencio	Affliction	2/9/2017 2/10/2017	Robert Maysey Warner Angle	James Valletta Warner Angle	Costa Mesa, CA
4	Scott Coker	Strikeforce, Bellator	8/3/2017	Michael C. Dell'Angelo Berger Montague	Kevin Rayhill JSLF Robert Maysey Warner Angle	Los Angeles, CA
5	Louis DiBella	DiBella Entertainment	8/29/2017	Daniel Silverman Cohen Milstein	Robert Maysey Warner Angle	New York, NY
6	Drew Goldman (30(b)(6))	Deutsche Bank Securities, Inc.	4/28/2017	Patrick F. Madden Berger Montague		New York, NY
7	Shannon Knapp	Invicta	4/11/2017	Kevin Rayhill JSLF		Kansas City, MO
8	Jeremy Lappen	Elite XC, MMA Fighter Manager	2/28/2017	Kevin Rayhill JSLF		Los Angeles, CA
9	Leon Margules	Warriors Boxing Promotion	7/11/2017	Daniel Silverman Cohen Milstein	Robert Maysey Warner Angle	Fort Lauderdale, FL
10	Colin Neville	The Raine Group	8/8/2017	John Radice Radice Law Firm		New York, NY

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#	WITNESS	AFFILIATION	DATE(S)	PRIMARY PLAINTIFFS' ATTORNEY EXAMINING	SUPPORTING ATTORNEY (IF ANY)	LOCATION
11	Kurt Otto	International Fight League	2/6/2017	Eric L. Cramer Berger Montague	Mark Suter Berger Montague Robert Maysey Warner Angle	New York, NY
12	Brent Richard	WME-IMG Endeavor	7/20/2017	Michael C. Dell'Angelo Berger Montague		New York, NY
13	Carlos Silva	World Series of Fighting	4/18/2017	Robert Maysey Warner Angle	Tara Nordquist Warner Angle	Las Vegas, NV
14	Andrew Simon	AXS TV, HDNet	7/19/2017	Kevin Rayhill JSLF		Dallas, TX

#### vi. Searching for Publicly Available Evidence

- 62. Co-Lead Class Counsel also undertook a comprehensive search through publicly available materials in search of relevant evidence.
- 63. For example, Berger Montague undertook to search through thousands of hours of video clips (and transcripts of video clips) of interviews of Zuffa employees and executives, Scott Coker (an executive at Strikeforce and later Bellator), and other MMA promoters.
- 64. Berger Montague identified and preserved these materials, and then clipped the videos for use at depositions and other proceedings.
- 65. Berger Montague then endeavored to lay the foundation to authenticate and use these materials at trial by, *inter alia*, issuing Requests for Admission concerning certain videos featuring Zuffa executives and using video clips at the depositions of Dana White, Lorenzo Fertitta, Scott Coker, and Robert Arum.
- 66. Berger Montague and Cohen Milstein then continually monitored, preserved, and searched for new videos and statements of UFC executives as well as reviewing voluminous filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, up to the settlement of this matter.

# vii. Written Discovery from the Le Class Representatives and Quarry

67. The *Le* Class Representatives, Cung Le, Jon Fitch, Brandon Vera, Javier Vasquez, and Kyle Kingsbury, as well as Nathan Quarry, had significant participation in discovery.

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- 68. Zuffa served each of the Le Class Representatives and Quarry with written discovery, including Requests for Production of Documents ("Zuffa's RFPs"), Interrogatories (requiring both individual and collective responses), and 71 Requests for Admission (requiring a collective response).
- Each of the Le Class Representatives and Quarry worked with Co-Lead Class Counsel and supporting counsel at Warner Angle to identify sources of documents that were responsive to Zuffa's RFPs. Co-Lead Class Counsel and Warner Angle then worked with a vendor to collect ESI from those sources. In addition, Warner Angle wrote letters (with input from Co-Lead Counsel) requesting that the Le Class Representatives' and Quarry's managers and agents provide any documents in the Le Class Representatives' and Quarry's control so that Plaintiffs could produce those materials, sending letters to twenty different managers and agents who represented the Le Class Representatives and Quarry over time.
- Through these efforts, Co-Lead Class Counsel collected more than 600,000 documents 70. from the Le Class Representatives and Quarry consisting of more than 800,000 pages. Class Counsel then reviewed these materials for relevance and responsiveness to Zuffa's RFPs.
- 71. As to the Interrogatories, Co-Lead Class Counsel and supporting counsel at Warner Angle worked with the Le Class Representatives and Quarry to develop and write their answers to Zuffa's Interrogatories. The Le Class Representatives and Quarry then reviewed these answers to ensure their accuracy, before certifying the answers and allowing Co-Lead Class Counsel to serve the answers on Zuffa.

#### Depositions of the Le Class Representatives and Quarry viii.

- 72. Co-Lead Class Counsel and supporting counsel from Warner Angle worked with the Le Class Representatives and Quarry to prepare them for their depositions, and then defended those depositions.
- 73. Prior to each deposition, Co-Lead Class Counsel responsible for defending the deposition reviewed the Le Class Representatives' (or Quarry's) document production and prepared outlines to address the likely areas of questioning at the deposition.
- Co-Lead Class Counsel then met with the Le Class Representatives (and Quarry) prior to the depositions to go over (1) the basics of testifying at deposition, (2) Plaintiffs' theories of liability,

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(3) class certification and related issues, and (4) the likely Plaintiff-specific areas of questioning, including their substantial document productions and extensive publicly available materials such as videos and social media postings. These preparation sessions lasted several hours with each *Le* Class Representative and Quarry. In addition, some *Le* Class Representatives attended the depositions of other *Le* Class Representatives, and/or watched video clips from Quarry's deposition to prepare for their own depositions.

75. Each *Le* Class Representative and Quarry then sat for a full-day deposition. Co-Lead Class Counsel collectively defended the six depositions of the *Le* Class Representatives and Quarry. Each of these depositions, including witness names, deposition date, and the defending/participating Co-Lead Class Counsel and supporting firm attorneys, is listed in the chart below:

#	WITNESS	DATE(S)	PRIMARY PLAINTIFFS' FIRM/ ATTORNEY DEFENDING	SUPPORTING ATTORNEY(S) (IF ANY)	LOCATION
1	Jon Fitch	2/15/2017	Michael C. Dell'Angelo Berger Montague	Robert Maysey Warner Angle	Las Vegas, NV
2	Kyle Kingsbury	2/17/2017	Michael C. Dell'Angelo Berger Montague	Robert Maysey Warner Angle Richard Koffman Cohen Milstein	Las Vegas, NV
3	Cung Le	4/11/2017	Michael C. Dell'Angelo Berger Montague	Robert Maysey Warner Angle	Las Vegas, NV
4	Nathan Quarry	9/30/2016	Eric Cramer Berger Montague	Don Springmeyer Kemp Jones <sup>9</sup>	Las Vegas, NV
5	Javier Vasquez	2/14/2017	Michael C. Dell'Angelo Berger Montague	Robert Maysey Warner Angle Richard Koffman Cohen Milstein	Las Vegas, NV
6	Brandon Vera	2/16/2017	Michael C. Dell'Angelo Berger Montague Richard Koffman Cohen Milstein	Robert Maysey Warner Angle	Las Vegas, NV

76. Each of these depositions transpired over the course of approximately a full day in Las Vegas, Nevada. At the time of the depositions, none of the *Le* Class Representatives nor Quarry resided

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> At the time of the deposition, Mr. Springmeyer was with Wolf Rifkin.

in Nevada, and attending these depositions required travel, in some cases significant travel. For example, Brandon Vera resides in Guam, and his attendance at his deposition and other events required more than 24 hours of travel; Quarry resides in and traveled from Oregon to hearings, preparation sessions, mediations, meetings, and his deposition; and Kyle Kingsbury resides in and traveled from Texas for to hearings, preparation sessions, mediations, meetings, and his deposition.

#### ix. Other Participation of the Le Class Representatives and Quarry

- 77. In addition to the foregoing, the *Le* Class Representatives and Quarry had consistent involvement throughout the case.
- 78. As noted above, the *Le* Class Representatives and Quarry joined monthly teleconferences to stay current with case developments.
- 79. The *Le* Class Representatives and/or Quarry attended court hearings, including the 2015 Motion to Transfer hearing in San Francisco, California, as well as the 2015 Motion to Dismiss hearing, the September 2017 hearing on Zuffa's motion for summary judgment as to Quarry's claims, the December 2018 motion for summary judgment hearing, the seven-day 2019 Evidentiary Hearing on Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Certification, and several other hearings and status conferences.
- 80. The *Le* Class Representatives and Quarry also travelled to attend the three in-person mediation sessions (in 2017 (Newport Beach, CA), 2019 (New York, NY), and 2023 (New York, NY)).
- 81. Further, prior to trial, the *Le* Class Representatives and Quarry attended multiple preparation sessions for their direct and cross examinations at trial. These sessions each took several hours. The sessions involved interviews by Co-Lead Class Counsel and Supporting Counsel to identify any areas of testimony that had not yet been covered by prior interviews and preparation sessions earlier in the case. The sessions involved the review of documents that could be used on cross-examination and documents that would be used during direct examination. And the sessions involved mock direct and cross examinations to prepare the *Le* Class Representatives and Quarry for their trial appearances.

#### D. Expert Discovery in the Le Action

82. Co-Lead Class Counsel oversaw an extensive and protracted expert discovery effort in the *Le* Action.

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83. Given the importance of economic issues in this case, Co-Lead Class Counsel retained three economic experts: Hal J. Singer, Ph.D., Professor Andrew Zimbalist, and Professor Alan Manning. Co-Lead Class Counsel spent significant time strategizing during discovery and briefing, working with Dr. Singer and his team to assess whether economic analyses and evidence common to members of the Le Class (SA ¶ 1(p)) would be capable of addressing, inter alia, (i) monopsony power, (ii) substantial foreclosure, (iii) common impact, (iv) anticompetitive effects, (v) alleged procompetitive justifications, and (vi) aggregate damages to the Bout Class and proposed Identity Rights Class. Co-Lead Class Counsel worked with Professor Zimbalist on his report concerning the history of free agency in major professional sports and the effects of free agency on athlete compensation, as well as a yardstick damages analysis. Co-Lead Counsel retained Professor Alan Manning after Zuffa's opposition reports criticized certain aspects of Dr. Singer's analysis, including in particular Dr. Singer's use of wage share as the main metric of analysis. Prof. Manning is a Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He wrote a key book on monopsony power that was favorably cited by Zuffa's own economists. He testified that wage share was indeed appropriate for use in this case involving professional athletes.

- 84. Co-Lead Class Counsel also retained a forensic accounting expert, Guy Davis. Mr. Davis submitted two reports totaling 156 pages.
- 85. Dr. Singer submitted four reports in the *Le* Action consisting of 526 pages inclusive of appendices. <sup>10</sup> Professor Zimbalist submitted two reports consisting of 231 pages, inclusive of appendices. Professor Manning's rebuttal report totaled 17 pages.
- 86. To assist the experts, Co-Lead Class Counsel collectively spent hundreds of hours over the course of several months: (1) ensuring that the experts received and understood the transactional data, reflecting (among many other data points) the compensation to each fighter for each bout, documents produced by Zuffa and by non-parties, and party and non-party depositions; (2) analyzing draft reports; and (3) meeting with the experts.

JOINT DECLARATION OF ERIC L. CRAMER, RICHARD A. KOFFMAN, AND JOSEPH R. SAVERI IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Later, Dr. Singer also offered a declaration as part of Plaintiffs' effort to bar Zuffa from introducing material into the *Le* Action trial that post-dated the June 30, 2017 end of the Class Period in *Le. See* ECF No. 914-2.

- 87. Co-Lead Class Counsel invested substantial time and effort related to expert discovery in this case—including the work of senior shareholders/partners—that was critical to proving the allegations that the challenged conduct foreclosed competition, caused anticompetitive effects, and harmed the members of the proposed classes.
- 88. The need for extensive expert discovery is reflective of the complexities of the *Le* Action, which required Co-Lead Class Counsel to grapple with and overcome numerous obstacles, including by proving some or all of the following using evidence common to the Classes:
  - a. that Zuffa had monopsony power;
  - b. that the challenged conduct foreclosed a substantial share of competition;
  - c. that the challenged conduct suppressed compensation for UFC fighters below competitive levels;
  - d. that the challenged conduct had significant anticompetitive effects;
  - e. that the challenged conduct had no valid procompetitive justifications that could outweigh the anticompetitive effects, and,
  - f. aggregate damages suffered by the *Le* Classes as a whole.
  - i. Expert Work of Hal J. Singer, Ph.D.
- 89. Co-Lead Class Counsel had initially engaged Hal J. Singer, Ph.D. to perform certain analyses prior to filing the Complaint in the *Le* Action.
- 90. Following the receipt of Zuffa's production of its Promotional and Ancillary Rights
  Agreements ("PAR Agreements") and compensation data, Co-Lead Class Counsel worked with Dr.
  Singer to develop and commence a comprehensive review and categorization of the PAR Agreements
  that Zuffa produced, identifying potentially anticompetitive contract terms and their prevalence and
  effects over time. To facilitate that review, Co-Lead Class Counsel identified and segregated the PAR
  Agreements in the document production database using a TAR algorithm, and Dr. Singer's staff
  performed the review and analyses.
- 91. Throughout discovery, Co-Lead Class Counsel and Dr. Singer and his staff stayed in regular communication to discuss developing factual issues that could be important to Dr. Singer's analyses and to monitor the progress of the PAR Agreement review.

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- 92. Co-Lead Class Counsel worked closely with Dr. Singer as Dr. Singer developed the model he used to assess impact and damages, including by helping to identify discovery materials that Dr. Singer and his team believed would be relevant to Dr. Singer's work. Co-Lead Class Counsel served Dr. Singer's opening Expert Report on August 31, 2017. ECF No. 518-3.
- 93. Following service of Dr. Singer's opening Expert Report, Co-Lead Class Counsel began to prepare Dr. Singer for his deposition. Co-Lead Class Counsel held multiple preparation sessions with Dr. Singer, each lasting several hours.
- 94. On September 27, 2017, Dr. Singer sat for his first deposition in the Le Action, with Berger Montague defending, supported by attorneys with JSLF and Cohen Milstein.
- 95. On October 27, 2017, Zuffa served expert reports from three economic experts (Dr. Robert Topel, Dr. Roger Blair, and Dr. Paul Oyer) critiquing the work and opinions of Plaintiffs' economic experts.
- 96. Co-Lead Class Counsel, led by Berger Montague and JSLF, then set to work with Dr. Singer to provide Dr. Singer and his staff the information he needed to prepare his Rebuttal Expert Report. Plaintiffs served Dr. Singer's Rebuttal Expert Report on January 12, 2018.
- 97. Following service of Dr. Singer's Rebuttal Expert Report, Co-Lead Class Counsel, led by Berger Montague and JSLF, prepared Dr. Singer for his second deposition in the Le Action, including teleconferences and an in-person preparation session lasting several hours.
- 98. On January 23, 2018, Dr. Singer sat for his second deposition in the Le Action, with Berger Montague defending and supported by attorneys with JSLF and Cohen Milstein.
- 99. Although, based on the Court-approved schedule in the *Le* Action, expert discovery closed following Dr. Singer's second deposition, Zuffa continued to try to supplement its arguments concerning Dr. Singer's testimony.
- A few weeks after expert discovery had closed, Zuffa served Plaintiffs with a "Sur-Rebuttal Expert Report of Prof. Robert H. Topel," dated February 12, 2018. Co-Lead Class Counsel directed Dr. Singer to prepare a report in response. Berger Montague and JSLF worked with Dr. Singer to complete and serve the Supplemental Expert Report of Hal J. Singer Ph.D., dated April 3, 2018 (see ECF No. 534-3).

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101. Then, when Zuffa filed its Opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Certification, Zuffa attached a new "Declaration of Robert Topel," dated April 6, 2018. See ECF No. 540-5. Co-Lead Class Counsel asked Dr. Singer to prepare a response to that declaration as well, which Berger Montague and JSLF again worked with Dr. Singer to compile.

- Following the filing of this second unauthorized report of Dr. Topel, Co-Lead Class 102. Counsel met and conferred with Zuffa in an effort to obtain an agreement to close the expert discovery record. Co-Lead Class Counsel obtained such an agreement and worked with Zuffa to draft and file the Joint Motion to Supplement Expert Reports, ECF No. 545 (which the Court granted, ECF No. 628). Pursuant to that Court-endorsed agreement, Zuffa was permitted to serve one further report of Dr. Topel with its Reply in support of Zuffa's motion to exclude Dr. Singer's testimony, and Plaintiffs were permitted to file one further report of Dr. Singer. *Id.*
- As a result, Co-Lead Class Counsel directed Dr. Singer to continue to prepare his response to the Declaration of Robert Topel and incorporate that into his then forthcoming final report in the *Le* Action.
- After Zuffa served Dr. Topel's "Reply to the Supplemental Expert Report of Hal J. Singer, Ph.D." (dated May 7, 2018), Berger Montague and JSLF worked with Dr. Singer to prepare and finalize his fourth report. Dr. Singer finalized the "Second Supplemental Reply Report of Hal J. Singer, Ph.D." on May 28, 2018, and Plaintiffs served that report with the Reply in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Certification. See ECF No. 554-3.

#### ii. **Expert Work of Professor Andrew Zimbalist**

- 105. During fact discovery, Co-Lead Class Counsel identified the potential need for an economist who had focused on the study of sports. Co-Lead Class Counsel commenced a search for a sports economist, ultimately retaining Professor Andrew Zimbalist to perform the work.
- 106. Cohen Milstein, supported by Berger Montague and JSLF, took the lead in working with Professor Zimbalist to prepare his opening report. Co-Lead Class Counsel worked with Professor Zimbalist to identify key materials in support of his opinions, including, without limitation, record evidence and publicly available materials concerning other sports leagues and organizations, as well as

consulting with Professor Zimbalist on Cohen Milstein's depositions of boxing promoters and collection of public materials concerning those promoters.

- 107. Co-Lead Class Counsel worked with Professor Zimbalist to finalize his opening Expert Report on August 30, 2017, and then served that report on August 31, 2017.
- 108. Cohen Milstein then began to prepare Professor Zimbalist for his deposition, supported by Berger Montague and JSLF. Co-Lead Class Counsel held multiple preparation sessions with Professor Zimbalist, each lasting several hours.
- 109. On September 25, 2017, Professor Zimbalist sat for his first deposition in the *Le* Action, with Berger Montague defending and supported by attorneys with JSLF and Cohen Milstein.
- 110. Once Plaintiffs received Zuffa's expert reports, in particular the Expert Report of Dr. Roger Blair (an economist), Cohen Milstein then took the lead in working with Professor Zimbalist to prepare the Expert Rebuttal Report of Andrew Zimbalist and to respond to Dr. Blair's critiques of Professor Zimbalist's work.
- 111. Following service of Dr. Zimbalist's rebuttal report, Cohen Milstein again took the lead in preparing him for his second deposition, with assistance from Co-Lead Class Counsel. Again, preparations took many hours as Co-Lead Class Counsel worked to prepare Professor Zimbalist for Zuffa's lines of questioning and attacks.
- 112. On January 26, 2018, Professor Zimbalist sat for his second deposition in the case.

  Berger Montague defended the deposition with support from JSLF and Cohen Milstein.

#### iii. Expert Work of Guy Davis

- 113. During fact discovery, Co-Lead Class Counsel identified the need for an accounting expert to analyze Zuffa's finances. Plaintiffs discovered that Zuffa had taken out hundreds of millions of dollars in debt that appeared to be used to pay dividends to Zuffa's owners. Co-Lead Class Counsel sought an expert qualified to analyze Zuffa's finances and these distributions as well as the valuation and sale of Zuffa in late 2016.
- 114. Co-Lead Class Counsel conducted a search for an accounting expert, ultimately retaining Guy Davis, CPA, CIRA, CDBV, CFE.

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- 115. Berger Montague took the lead in working with Guy Davis to develop his report on Zuffa's financials. Berger Montague collected financials and related materials for Guy Davis and consulted with him on other materials he needed for his work.
- Co-Lead Class Counsel, Berger Montague in particular, helped Guy Davis to finalize his report and serve it on August 31, 2017.
- Then, Berger Montague and Cohen Milstein worked with Mr. Davis to prepare him for 117. his first deposition. Berger Montague and Cohen Milstein prepared Mr. Davis for approximately 10-15 hours. Cohen Milstein then defended Mr. Davis's deposition, with Berger Montague supporting on September 19, 2017.
- 118. Upon receipt of Zuffa's expert reports, in particular the Expert Report of Elizabeth Kroger Davis (an accounting expert), Berger Montague worked with Guy Davis to respond to Ms. Davis's opinions. Berger Montague provided support to Mr. Davis in preparing the Rebuttal Expert Report of Guy A. Davis, CPA, CIRA, CDBV, CFE, finalizing that report, and serving it on January 12, 2018.
- 119. Following service of Guy Davis's second report, Co-Lead Class Counsel began to prepare him for his second deposition.
- Guy Davis sat for his second deposition in the Le Action on January 30, 2018. Cohen Milstein defended the deposition.

#### iv. Expert Work of Prof. Alan Manning

- When Plaintiffs received Zuffa's expert reports, Co-Lead Class Counsel noted that in 121. claiming that wage share was an inappropriate metric, Zuffa's expert Dr. Paul Oyer relied in part on a labor economist named Prof. Alan Manning at the London School of Economics and Politics. See Expert Report of Paul Oyer, ¶¶22-24, 26. Dr. Oyer cited as one basis for his opinion that wage share was inappropriate the fact that Professor Manning did not use wage share in his work. Id.; see also id. ¶5. Dr. Oyer proclaimed that Professor Manning is "a recognized expert and leader ... in analysis of monopsony in labor markets," who is "particularly authoritative." See ECF No. 534-9.
- Co-Lead Class Counsel agreed that Prof. Manning was an authoritative source regarding the proper methods for analyzing monopsony power in labor markets and reached out to Professor

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Manning to have him analyze Dr. Singer's approach and opine on the appropriateness of Dr. Singer's regression modeling choices.

- 123. Berger Montague and JSLF took the lead in working with Professor Manning to facilitate his understanding of Dr. Singer's model and the preparation of Prof. Manning's report endorsing Dr. Singer's model. Plaintiffs served the Expert Rebuttal Report of Professor Alan Manning on January 12, 2018.
- 124. Co-Lead Class Counsel then began to prepare Professor Manning for his deposition, including by holding a preparation session with Professor Manning.
- 125. Professor Manning traveled from his home in the United Kingdom to sit for his deposition on February 8, 2018 in Philadelphia, PA. Berger Montague defended the deposition with support from JSLF. Professor Manning likewise traveled from his home in the United Kingdom to Las Vegas to testify at the Evidentiary Hearing on Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Certification (discussed *infra*).

#### v. Defending Plaintiffs' Expert Witness Depositions

126. All of the depositions of Plaintiffs' experts, including expert witness names, deposition dates, and the participating attorneys (and their roles), are as follows:

#	EXPERT WITNESS	DATE(S)	PRIMARY PLAINTIFFS' FIRM/ ATTORNEY DEFENDING	SUPPORTING FIRM/ ATTORNEY (IF ANY)	LOCATION
1	Hal J. Singer (First and	9/27/2017	Eric L. Cramer	Mark Suter	
	Second Depositions)	1/23/2018	Berger Montague	Berger Montague	
				Daniel Silverman Cohen Milstein  Joshua P. Davis JSLF <sup>11</sup>	Philadelphia, PA
2	Andrew Zimbalist	10/6/2017	Eric L. Cramer	Daniel Silverman	
	(First Deposition)		Berger Montague	Cohen Milstein	
					Northampton, MA
				Joshua P. Davis	
<u> </u>				JSLF	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Josh Davis was at JSLF for a significant portion of the case. He joined Berger Montague as a Shareholder on January 1, 2023.

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#	EXPERT WITNESS	DATE(S)	PRIMARY PLAINTIFFS' FIRM/ ATTORNEY DEFENDING	SUPPORTING FIRM/ ATTORNEY (IF ANY)	LOCATION
3	Andrew Zimbalist (Second Deposition)	1/26/2018	Eric L. Cramer Berger Montague	Daniel Silverman Cohen Milstein Richard Koffman Cohen Milstein Joshua P. Davis	New York, NY
4	Guy Davis (First Deposition)	11/29/2017	Richard Koffman Cohen Milstein	JSLF Eric L. Cramer Berger Montague  Patrick F. Madden Berger Montague	Philadelphia, PA
5	Guy Davis (Second Deposition)	1/30/2018	Richard Koffman Cohen Milstein	2 2	Washington, D.C.
6	Alan Manning	2/8/2018	Eric L. Cramer Berger Montague	Mark Suter Berger Montague Richard Koffman Cohen Milstein Joshua P. Davis JSLF	Philadelphia, PA

#### vi. Co-Lead Class Counsel's Work Concerning Zuffa's Experts

- 127. Co-Lead Class Counsel also analyzed the reports produced by Zuffa's five experts: Dr. Robert H. Topel, Dr. Paul Oyer, Dr. Roger Blair, Richard Marks, and Elizabeth Kroger Davis, who collectively produced reports totaling 650 pages. <sup>12</sup>
- 128. Additionally, Co-Lead Class Counsel took the depositions of Zuffa's expert witnesses. Co-Lead Class Counsel's preparation for each of these depositions was painstaking, involving extensive discussion with and feedback from Plaintiffs' experts, review of Zuffa's expert reports and the materials relied upon, and review of significant portions of the record in this case.
- 129. All of the depositions of Zuffa's experts, including expert witness names, deposition dates, and the participating attorneys (and their roles), examined by Co-Lead Class Counsel, are as follows:

Additionally, Co-Lead Class Counsel analyzed the belated expert report of Gregory Leonard filed by Zuffa in December 2023 prior to Plaintiffs' successful motion to strike that report. See ECF No. 933 (Plaintiffs' Motion to Strike); ECF No. 959 (Order on Plaintiffs' Motion to Strike).

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#	EXPERT WITNESS	DATE(S)	PRIMARY PLAINTIFFS' FIRM/ ATTORNEY EXAMINING	SUPPORTING FIRM/ ATTORNEY (IF ANY)	LOCATION
1	Robert Topel	12/5/2017	Eric L. Cramer	Mark Suter	Washington, D.C.
_	P D1:	12/6/2017	Berger Montague	Berger Montague	
2	Roger Blair	12/8/2017	Daniel Silverman	Patrick F. Madden	Orlando, FL
		12/9/2017	Cohen Milstein	Berger Montague	Ollando, 1 E
3	Paul Oyer	11/29/2017	Josh Davis	Eric L. Cramer	W1-in-4 D.C
			JSLF	Berger Montague	Washington, D.C.
4	Richard Marks	11/30/2017	Michael C. Dell'Angelo		W. 1: A. D.C.
			Berger Montague		Washington, D.C.
5	Elizabeth Kroger Davis	11/28/2017	Richard Koffman		Washington D.C
	-		Cohen Milstein		Washington, D.C.

130. In addition to the foregoing experts, Zuffa introduced what Plaintiffs claimed was untimely expert material in the form of its Summary Exhibits, discussed *supra* and in ECF No. 658, as well as the Declaration of Gregory K. Leonard (ECF No. 932-28), which Plaintiffs did not address substantively, but successfully moved to strike, *see* ECF No. 959.

### E. Class Certification and Daubert Proceedings in the Le Action

#### i. Class Certification Briefing

131. Following the completion of fact and expert discovery in the *Le* Action, Co-Lead Class Counsel prepared a class certification motion and brief along with supporting materials. Berger Montague and JSLF took the lead on drafting the motion and brief. Co-Lead Class Counsel drew on the extensive expert record they had developed and their expertise in the law concerning worker-side antitrust cases to develop their case for class certification. Berger Montague took the lead in finalizing and filing Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Certification and all the supporting papers, as well as a motion to provisionally seal the brief and supporting evidence, on February 16, 2018. ECF Nos. 518, 519.

132. Following Zuffa's opposition to class certification, filed on April 6, 2018 (ECF No. 540), Co-Lead Counsel, again with Berger Montague and JSLF taking the lead, drafted Plaintiffs' Reply in Support of Plaintiffs Motion for Class Certification. Berger Montague finalized and filed that Reply on May 30, 2018. *See* ECF No. 554.

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#### ii. Zuffa's First Daubert Briefing

- 133. On the same day that Plaintiffs' filed their Motion for Class Certification (February 16, 2018), Zuffa filed three motions to exclude Plaintiffs' experts Hal J. Singer, Ph.D. (ECF No. 524), Professor Andrew Zimbalist (ECF No. 522), and Guy Davis (ECF No. 517).
- 134. Due to the overlap of Zuffa's arguments as to Professor Zimbalist and Dr. Singer, Plaintiffs drafted a consolidated opposition to the motions to exclude those experts. Co-Lead Class Counsel jointly worked to develop that opposition, with Berger Montague finalizing and filing that brief and the related motion to seal on April 6, 2018. *See* ECF No. 534.
- 135. Cohen Milstein took the lead in drafting the opposition to the motion to exclude the testimony of Guy Davis, Plaintiffs' accounting expert. Plaintiffs filed that opposition and the related motion to seal on April 6, 2018. ECF No. 535.

#### iii. The Evidentiary Hearing on Class Certification

- Motions, and one of Zuffa's Motions for Summary Judgment (discussed *infra*), the parties prepared for argument on these motions and the Court set a hearing for December 14, 2018. *See* ECF No. 616. At that hearing, the Court announced its intent to hold an evidentiary hearing on Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Certification ("Evidentiary Hearing") and requested briefing on (1) the legal standard for class certification, and (2) confidentiality issues relating to the evidence to be presented at the upcoming hearing. The Court also denied Zuffa's Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 573) at that time, without prejudice, announcing that Zuffa could re-raise summary judgment after the Court held the class certification hearing and resolved class certification. ECF No. 628.
- 137. Berger Montague took the lead on drafting the briefing concerning the use of material designated as confidential under the protective order in the case. ECF Nos. 631, 639. JSLF took the lead on drafting the class certification standards briefing for Plaintiffs, with assistance from other Co-Lead Class Counsel. ECF Nos. 633, 640.
- 138. At the ensuing hearing on the standard for class certification and to discuss the upcoming Evidentiary Hearing, Berger Montague handled arguments concerning the hearing process

and the Court's questions concerning the potential use of an independent expert, and JSLF handled argument on issues relating to class certification standards. *See* ECF No. 651.

- 139. Over the next several months, the parties met and conferred on a variety of issues relating to the Evidentiary Hearing, including exchanging exhibits and preparing exhibit lists. Berger Montague led these meet and confers and processes.
- 140. During these pre-Evidentiary Hearing processes, Zuffa produced a set of new purported "Summary Exhibits" and indicated its intention to rely on other purported "Summary Exhibits" it had attached to its opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Certification. Plaintiffs objected to these exhibits as untimely expert testimony that lacked appropriate foundation. Plaintiffs briefed those objections, with Berger Montague taking the lead in the briefing and argument. *See* ECF No. 658.
- 141. Zuffa also objected to certain of Plaintiffs' proposed exhibits. Cohen Milstein took the lead on responding to Zuffa's objections on Plaintiffs' behalf. *See* ECF No. 674.
- 142. Furthermore, as part of the confidentiality issues the parties worked to resolve in advance of the Evidentiary Hearing, the parties provided notice to the various third parties where such third parties (1) produced discovery materials that appeared on the parties' exhibit lists, and (2) the third parties designated such materials as confidential or highly confidential under the protective order.
- 143. Following the objections of some of these third parties, Co-Lead Class Counsel, in particular Berger Montague and JSLF, took the lead in drafting Plaintiffs' briefing concerning the use of these materials at the Evidentiary Hearing. *See* ECF Nos. 676 & 677.
- 144. In addition to these matters relating to evidence, standards, and confidentiality, throughout 2019 leading up to the August/September 2019 Evidentiary Hearing, Co-Lead Class Counsel prepared to examine the seven witnesses requested by the Court (the parties' six economic experts and former UFC matchmaker Joseph Silva). Berger Montague took the lead in preparing Dr. Singer for his direct examination, assisted by JSLF and Cohen Milstein. Berger Montague also prepared the cross examination of Dr. Topel. JSLF prepared the direct examination of Dr. Alan Manning, assisted by Berger Montague. JSLF also prepared the cross examination of Dr. Oyer, assisted by Berger Montague. Cohen Milstein prepared the direct examination of Dr. Zimbalist, assisted by

Berger Montague and JSLF. And Cohen Milstein prepared the cross examination of Dr. Blair, assisted by other Co-Lead Class Counsel. Finally, Berger Montague prepared the examination of Joseph Silva.

- 145. During the in-person Evidentiary Hearing, the Co-Lead Class Counsel who led the preparation of the examinations then put on or crossed the witnesses at the Hearing over the course of the six days of expert testimony in Las Vegas, ECF Nos. 724, 726, 730, 734, 741, 745 (August 26-28, 30, 2019, September 12-13, 2019), and the single day of testimony from Joseph Silva in Richmond, Virginia, ECF No. 829 (September 23, 2019).
- 146. Overnight between the second and third days of testimony during the Evidentiary Hearing, Zuffa served new regression analyses on Plaintiffs. *See* ECF No. 728. Berger Montague worked with Dr. Singer to understand these regressions, then prepared to argue to the Court concerning the inappropriateness of consideration of these regressions, all while also preparing the cross examination of Dr. Topel and analyzing the effect of these regressions on Dr. Singer's rebuttal testimony. *See* ECF No. 730 (transcript containing argument on the regressions).
- 147. Additionally, during the Evidentiary Hearing, the Court requested supplemental briefing on Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Certification, including any citations to the Evidentiary Hearing testimony. *See* ECF No. 737. Berger Montague, with assistance from Cohen Milstein, drafted, finalized, and filed that brief. *See* ECF No. 744. Finally, toward the close of the hearing, the Court asked the parties to give closing arguments on the final day of the hearing. JSLF, assisted by Berger Montague, prepared for that argument, and JSLF handled that argument before the Court. Berger Montague also handled procedural matters before the Court as they arose during the Hearing.

#### iv. Post-Hearing Proceedings on Class Certification

- 148. Following the Evidentiary Hearing, Zuffa moved for reconsideration of the Court's rulings striking certain testimony of Joseph Silva. ECF No. 748. Berger Montague drafted the opposition to that motion. ECF No. 751. The Court denied Zuffa's motion. ECF No. 764.
- 149. Over the next few years (2019-2023), Co-Lead Class Counsel attended multiple status conferences, ECF Nos. 768, 781, 814. At the second of these status conferences, on December 10, 2020, the Court announced its intention to grant Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Certification as to the Bout Class but deny certification of the proposed Identity Rights Class. *See* ECF No. 775.

150. Following the December 10, 2020 status conference, the Court Ordered the parties to file a joint list of all exhibits or portions of exhibits or briefs that remain sealed or redacted. ECF No. 772. Berger Montague worked with Zuffa's counsel to compile and prepare that list for submission to the Court. ECF No. 778.

- 151. Also following that December 10, 2020 status conference, on April 6, 2021, a Ninth Circuit panel vacated a district court order certifying three classes in a price fixing case. *Olean Wholesale Grocery Co-Op v. Bumble Bee Foods LLC*, No. 19-56514 (9th Cir. Apr.6, 2021). Zuffa submitted that decision to this Court on April 8, 2021. ECF No. 803. Co-Lead Class Counsel, led by Berger Montague and JSLF, drafted a response to contextualize *Olean*'s applicability to this litigation. *See* ECF No. 804 (Apr. 9, 2021). The Ninth Circuit then vacated the panel Order and took the matter up *en banc, Olean Wholesale Grocery Co-Op v. Bumble Bee Foods LLC*, No. 19-56514, ECF No. 128 (9th Cir. Aug. 3, 2021), a development Plaintiffs submitted to this Court on August 3, 2021 (ECF No. 818). Then on April 8, 2022, the Ninth Circuit filed its opinion in *Olean* reversing the panel decision and affirming the district court's certification of three classes, which Plaintiffs submitted to this Court that same day (ECF No. 821). When the Supreme Court denied *certiorari* in *Olean* on November 14, 2022, Co-Lead Class Counsel submitted that development to this Court the same day. *See* ECF No. 832.
- 152. On August 9, 2023, the Court issued its Order granting in part Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Certification, certifying the proposed Bout Class. ECF No. 839.
- 153. JSLF and Berger Montague took the lead in drafting the notice to the certified Class in the *Le* Action as well as the Motion for Approval of Class Notice Plan. *See* ECF No. 916. Prior to that Motion, Berger Montague sought bids from multiple vendors providing claims administration and notice services, analyzed those bids, and selected Angeion Group as presenting the best bid for notice to the class. The Court granted the motion, approving the notice plan, ECF No. 921, and Co-Lead Class Counsel oversaw the issuance of notice to the Class. Notably, no members of the *Le* Class opted out.

#### v. Zuffa's Rule 23(f) Appeal

154. Zuffa filed a petition pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(f) ("23(f) Petition"), seeking to appeal the Court's Order certifying the Bout Class. *See Le v. Zuffa, LLC*, No. 23-80074, ECF No. 2 (9th Cir. Aug. 23, 2023).

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- 155. Berger Montague drafted and filed Plaintiffs' opposition to Zuffa's 23(f) Petition. No. 23-80074, ECF No. 4 (9th Cir. Sept. 5, 2023). Berger Montague also drafted and filed a response opposing Zuffa's request for a reply brief, and Plaintiffs' proposed sur-reply in the event Zuffa's reply brief was allowed. No. 23-80074, ECF Nos. 8 & 10 (9th Cir. Sept. 22, 2023).
  - 156. The Ninth Circuit denied Zuffa's 23(f) Petition on November 1, 2023.

#### vi. The Improper Solicitation of Absent Class Members

- 157. Following the second post-Evidentiary Hearing status conference of December 10, 2020, wherein the Court announced its intention to certify the Bout Class, Plaintiffs became aware that another firm (Sparacino PLLC or "Sparacino") had been sending potentially misleading solicitations to UFC fighters attempting to persuade these fighters to sign retainers with Sparacino and opt out of the Bout Class. Co-Lead Class Counsel immediately commenced an effort to meet and confer with Sparacino to get the firm to cease these activities. Co-Lead Class Counsel was initially unable to convince Sparacino to cease its efforts.
- 158. Co-Lead Class Counsel drafted and filed an emergency Motion to Compel Sparacino to cease communicating with absent class members. ECF No. 796. Co-Lead Class Counsel also drafted and filed a reply brief addressing Sparacino's arguments in opposition. ECF No. 813. After the Court denied the emergency motion as moot based on Sparacino's representations that the challenged activity was no longer occurring, ECF No. 831, Co-Lead Class Counsel became aware of additional information that Co-Lead Class Counsel believed required further action by the Court. On August 17, 2023, Co-Lead Class Counsel raised these issues with the Court via a Pre-Conference Statement. ECF No. 842 at 7. At the ensuing status conference, on August 21, 2023, the Court directed Co-Lead Class Counsel to meet and confer with Sparacino and submit further briefing. Co-Lead Class Counsel complied with that Order, endeavoring to meet and confer, first following that August 21, 2023 hearing and again with subsequent outreach. But Sparacino rebuffed those efforts and filed a motion for sanctions against Co-Lead Class Counsel. ECF No. 849. Cohen Milstein led the responsive briefing for Plaintiffs. ECF Nos. 859, 860. After Sparacino served its reply brief featuring new matter and arguments, Cohen Milstein prepared a surreply. See ECF No. 868. Cohen Milstein also prepared an affirmative motion seeking an Order prohibiting Sparacino from continuing what Co-Lead Class

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Counsel believed were improper solicitations and to remedy past allegedly improper solicitations (*e.g.*, allowing fighters who signed retainer agreements with Sparacino to terminate those agreements without penalty or financial obligation to Sparacino). ECF Nos. 875, 876. Cohen Milstein then argued these motions before the Court on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class. *See* ECF No. 895. Subsequent to that hearing, Sparacino filed papers with the Court announcing that it had terminated its representation with the remaining UFC fighters who had signed retention letters and would not communicate with any absent class members going forward. ECF No. 925.

#### F. Zuffa's Motions for Summary Judgment in the Le Action

- 159. Zuffa filed three separate motions for summary judgment.
- 160. First, during discovery, Zuffa filed a motion for partial summary judgment seeking to dismiss as untimely Quarry's claims relating to identity rights. ECF No. 347 (D. Nev. Feb. 1, 2017). JSLF took the lead in drafting Plaintiffs' Opposition, with assistance from Berger Montague. ECF No. 365. Berger Montague then argued Plaintiffs' opposition. *See* ECF No. 494. The Court ultimately denied the motion for summary judgment as to Quarry's identity rights claims without prejudice (Quarry did not claim to have timely bout claims). ECF No. 493.
- In Tollowing briefing on Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Certification (ECF No. 518) and Zuffa's motions to exclude Plaintiffs' experts (ECF Nos. 517, 522, 524), Zuffa filed another motion for summary judgment. ECF No. 573 (July 30, 2018). For Plaintiffs' Opposition, Berger Montague undertook to draft the opposition to Zuffa's statement of undisputed facts, as well as parts of the opposition brief, and JSLF led the drafting of other components of the brief with contributions from Cohen Milstein. Berger Montague then finalized the brief and filed it. ECF No. 596 (Sept. 21, 2018). Berger Montague then prepared to argue the motion for summary judgment at the December 2018 hearing, but the Court ultimately denied the motion without argument and without prejudice. ECF No. 628.
- 162. Following the Court's Class Certification Order, ECF No. 839 (Aug. 9, 2023), Zuffa renewed its motion for summary judgment. *See* ECF No. 878 (Oct. 24, 2023). Cohen Milstein and Berger Montague led Plaintiffs' drafting of their opposition to the renewed motion, including a voluminous set of exhibits. ECF No. 926 (Nov. 30, 2023).

163. On January 18, 2024, the Court denied Zuffa's renewed motion for summary judgment. ECF No. 959.

## G. The Investigation and Filing of the *Johnson* Action, Litigating the Motion to Dismiss in *Johnson*, and Preliminary Fact Discovery in *Johnson*

- 164. While awaiting the Court's Order certifying the Bout Class in the *Le* Action, Co-Lead Class Counsel, with supporting counsel at Warner Angle, were retained by Plaintiffs Kajan Johnson and Clarence Dollaway to file a new action on behalf of UFC fighters who appeared in bouts for the UFC from July 1, 2017 to the present. This "*Johnson* Action" thus covered the period after the end of the *Le* Action's Class Period (which ran from December 16, 2010 through June 30, 2017).
- 165. Co-Lead Class Counsel's investigation into the *Johnson* Action focused on (1) establishing a sufficient basis for alleging that Zuffa's conduct alleged in the *Le* Action continued beyond June 30, 2017, and (2) analyzing how the conduct was affected by the sale of Zuffa in 2016 to WME-IMG Endeavor ("Endeavor"), including by reviewing corporate documents and other publicly available materials evidencing actions Endeavor took on Zuffa's behalf that may have contributed to the alleged anticompetitive scheme.
- 166. Co-Lead Class Counsel named both Zuffa and Endeavor Group Holdings, Inc. as defendants when filing the initial complaint in the *Johnson* Action. *Johnson v. Zuffa, LLC*, No. 2:21-cv-1189, ECF No. 1 (D. Nev. June 23, 2021). Co-Lead Class Counsel then sought to have the Court coordinate (but not consolidate) the *Johnson* Action with the *Le* Action for efficiency purposes, which the Court did. *Id.*, ECF No. 9 (July 2, 2021) (Notice of Related Cases); *see also* ECF No. 11 (Transfer Order).
- 167. Zuffa and Endeavor Group Holdings, Inc. moved to dismiss the *Johnson* Action. *Johnson v. Zuffa, LLC*, No. 2:21-cv-1189, ECF No. 17 (D. Nev. Sept. 10, 2021). Berger Montague led the drafting of Plaintiffs' Opposition to the motion to dismiss. *See id.*, ECF No. 41 (Oct. 22, 2021). The Court denied the motion to dismiss without prejudice on September 30, 2022. *See* ECF No. 68.
- 168. Endeavor renewed its motion to dismiss on December 1, 2023. *See Johnson*, No. 2:21-cv-1189, ECF No. 112.
  - 169. In response to Endeavor's renewed motion to dismiss, Co-Lead Class Counsel sought to

amend the complaint. Co-Lead Class Counsel, with assistance from supporting counsel at Warner Angle, performed further investigation into the changes in the corporate structure around the UFC. Co-Lead Class Counsel analyzed publicly available materials concerning the formation of the new, publicly traded corporation TKO Group Holdings, Inc. and its involvement in the conduct Plaintiffs alleged in the *Johnson* Action. Berger Montague then drafted and filed the Amended Complaint in the *Johnson* Action, adding TKO Group Holdings, Inc. as a defendant and adding a new plaintiff, Tristan Connelly. *Johnson*, No. 2:21-cv-1189, ECF No. 118.

- 170. Co-Lead Class Counsel then negotiated a briefing schedule for any further motion to dismiss that Defendants (Zuffa, Endeavor Inc., and/or TKO Group Holdings, Inc.), might choose to file. *Id.*, ECF No. 119.
- 171. Zuffa and TKO Group Holdings, Inc. filed an Answer on February 5, 2024. *See id.*, ECF No. 129. Endeavor filed a motion to dismiss. *Id.*, ECF No. 128.
- 172. The Settlement in the Actions was reached prior to the date on which Plaintiffs' opposition to Endeavor's third motion to dismiss was due.
- 173. Prior to Settlement in the Actions, discovery in the *Johnson* Action had commenced. On October 14, 2023, Co-Lead Class Counsel prepared and served Requests for Production of Documents to Defendants. Co-Lead Class Counsel also received Defendants' Requests for Production of Documents served on Plaintiffs and drafted and served objections and responses to those Requests. Co-Lead Class Counsel, in particular Cohen Milstein, worked with supporting counsel at Warner Angle to collect potentially responsive documents from the Plaintiffs in the *Johnson* Action for production to Defendants.

#### H. Confidentiality Issues

- 174. Zuffa and most third parties producing documents in the *Le* Action designated all or nearly all of their productions as "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential" pursuant to the protective order in this case. ECF No. 217.
- 175. Throughout the litigation, whenever Plaintiffs filed something containing material designated as "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential," Plaintiffs were compelled by the protective order to file such materials under seal, creating a separate "public" version of the filed materials

counsel (1) to scrub through the filing and ensure that designated material was redacted, (2) to prepare a motion to seal the material, and (3) to perform two filings, one of the public version and one of the redacted version, for each motion, brief, or opposition (and related attachments).

redacting the designated material. As a result, most key filings required substantial additional work by

- 176. As the parties reached the class certification and summary judgment stages of the case, the rote process of conducting these dual filings and motions to seal began to break down. The public Evidentiary Hearing on class certification would result in material previously filed only under seal being presented publicly. As discussed *supra*, this led to significant briefing and argument on confidentiality standards applicable to these materials.
- 177. Following the Court's Order certifying the Bout Class in the *Le* Action, the Court directed the parties to identify any materials that should remain under seal that had been filed in the case.
- 178. After the Court's instructions at the August 21, 2023 status conference, Co-Lead Class Counsel commenced to undertake a review of the entirety of the filed record in the *Le* Action and identify any materials that could remain sealed under the Court's direction or any other legitimate basis.
- 179. Berger Montague engaged in multiple meet and confer teleconferences with Zuffa's counsel to discuss whether any materials could properly remain under seal. Ultimately, upon receiving direction from the Court, the parties reached agreement as to the treatment of all materials filed in the case.
- 180. Co-Lead Class Counsel prepared three filings addressing the three categories of such materials. Co-Lead Class Counsel filed two of these three filings. *See* ECF Nos. 946, 948. Co-Lead Class Counsel then sent the third filing Co-Lead Class Counsel had prepared for Zuffa to file. ECF No. 949.

## I. Pre-Trial Proceedings in the *Le* Action and Related Discovery issues in the *Johnson* Action

- i. Scheduling Trial in the Le Action.
- 181. Fewer than two weeks after the Court certified the Bout Class in the *Le* Action, the Court held a status conference. *See* ECF No. 847. Berger Montague took the lead in drafting a Pre-Conference Statement setting forth Plaintiffs' proposal for proceeding to trial in the *Le* Action. *See* ECF No. 842.
- 182. In the Pre-Conference Statement, Plaintiffs proposed that the *Le* Action proceed to trial on liability and damages but that the Court should defer consideration of injunctive relief in both *Le* and *Johnson* until after trial in the *Johnson* Action. ECF No. 842 at 1-3, 4-7. <sup>13</sup>
- 183. At the status conference on August 21, 2023, the Court announced a trial on liability and damages in the *Le* Action to take place in March or April 2024. ECF No. 847. Berger Montague led the Plaintiffs' presentation at the status conference.
- 184. The Court later informed the parties by email that the trial would be set to start on April 8, 2024. On September 29, 2023, Zuffa requested to postpone trial for months based on a conflict with Zuffa's counsel's schedule. ECF No. 861. Co-Lead Class Counsel responded on October 3, 2023 that the trial should proceed as scheduled, or else be delayed by only one week. ECF No. 864. The Court reset the trial for liability and damages in the *Le* Action for April 15, 2024. ECF No. 961.
  - ii. Zuffa's efforts to reopen discovery in the *Le* Action and/or use discovery in the *Johnson* Action at trial in the *Le* Action.
- 185. Plaintiffs filed a Pre-Conference Statement after the Court's Order certifying the Bout Class in the *Le* Action, ECF No. 842 (Aug. 17, 2023), to which Zuffa responded. Zuffa's response announced its intention to seek further discovery prior to trial in the *Le* Action. ECF No. 843. Zuffa then argued for such discovery at the status conference on August 21, 2023. *See* ECF Nos. 847, 847.

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<sup>13</sup> The Pre-Conference Statement also addressed other issues, including Plaintiffs' request that the Class Certification record in the *Le* Action be unsealed in its entirety (ECF No. 842 at 8); Plaintiffs' allegation that Sparacino had continued its improper communications with *Le* Class Members (*id.* at 7); and whether a Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) class may pursue injunctive relief (*id.* at 3-4).

See Le Action, ECF No. 870.

file a motion seeking to reopen discovery in the *Le* Action. *See* ECF No. 847.

186. On September 21, 2023, prior to Zuffa's motion to reopen discovery, Co-Lead Class Counsel, led by Berger Montague, and counsel for Defendants in the *Johnson* Action met and conferred

Berger Montague argued against that position at the status conference. The Court permitted Zuffa to

pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) and submitted a Joint Proposed Discovery Plan and Scheduling Order ("Discovery Plan"). *See Johnson*, No. 2:21-cv-1189, ECF No. 80. In connection with that Discovery Plan and further meet and confers thereafter, the parties endeavored to reach an agreement concerning how discovery in one of the Actions could be used in the other, but were unable to reach agreement.

- 187. On October 26, 2023, Zuffa filed two motions. First, Zuffa filed a Motion to Reopen Discovery and Amend Scheduling Order. ECF No. 884 (Oct. 26, 2023). Second, Zuffa filed a Motion to Treat Fact Evidence Produced in the *Johnson* Action as if it Was also Produced in *Le* Action. ECF No. 885 (Oct. 26, 2023).
- 188. While Plaintiffs worked on their opposition briefs to these motions, the Court issued an Order setting a hearing on the Motion to Reopen Discovery for November 17, 2023, ECF No. 894, four days before Plaintiffs' Opposition was due. *See* ECF No. 871.
- 189. Given the overlap in the underlying issues, Berger Montague met and conferred with Zuffa to reach an agreement on a consolidated opposition brief and appropriate deadlines. When the parties were unable to agree on these issues, Zuffa filed a motion to consolidate the briefing and amend the schedule. *See* ECF No. 896 (Nov. 6, 2023). Berger Montague drafted a response, which Plaintiffs filed the same day as Zuffa's motion. *See* ECF No. 897 (Nov. 6, 2023). The Court largely adopted Plaintiffs' position on the issues in an Order issued later that day. *See* ECF No. 900 (Nov. 6, 2023).
- 190. Berger Montague drafted a consolidated response to Zuffa's two motions (ECF Nos. 884 & 885) relating to the new discovery Zuffa sought to take and utilize in the upcoming *Le* trial and filed it on November 13, 2023. *See* ECF No. 914. At a hearing on November 17, 2023, Berger Montague argued Plaintiffs' opposition to Zuffa's two motions (ECF Nos. 884 & 885) relating to the new discovery Zuffa sought to take and utilize in the upcoming *Le* Action trial. The Court denied Defendants' motions from the bench. *See* ECF No. 922.

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191. At the November 17, 2023 hearing on Zuffa's two motions (ECF Nos. 884 & 885), the Court addressed Plaintiffs' position that injunctive relief in the *Le* Action could be resolved in a proceeding to follow a jury trial in the *Johnson* Action. *See* ECF No. 923, at 31-45. Plaintiffs acknowledged that to establish the *Le* Class's entitlement to injunctive relief, additional discovery regarding current market conditions would be necessary. *See*, *e.g.*, id. at 33, 37. The Court stated that Plaintiffs "may have to make a choice about how much injunctive relief [Plaintiffs] seek for the *Le* class," to the extent Plaintiffs sought to hold the injunctive relief proceedings on behalf of the *Le* Class after discovery in *Johnson*. *Id.* at 41. The Court described waiting to hold injunctive relief proceedings until a year or more after trial on liability and damages in the *Le* Action as "problematic" and stated that the Court was "not sure that [it] would permit an injunctive relief claim to move forward for the *Le* class." *Id.* at 42-43. In response to the Court's concerns on this issue, and to keep the April 2024 trial date in place, Co-Lead Class Counsel elected to defer all injunctive relief proceedings to the *Johnson* Action, and not seek injunctive relief in the *Le* Action. See ECF No. 947.

#### iii. Pretrial Tasks and Work

#### a. Witness Lists and Deposition Designations

- 192. Toward the end of 2023, as the *Le* Action sped toward trial, Co-Lead Class Counsel, with assistance from supporting counsel at Warner Angle, Kemp Jones, and Clark Hill PLC ("Clark Hill"), <sup>14</sup> engaged intensely in various pretrial tasks.
- 193. Each Co-Lead Class Counsel firm undertook responsibility for review of the deposition transcripts in the case to identify the witnesses most relevant to the potential trial presentation. Co-Lead Class Counsel noted initial deposition designations for each transcript while determining which witnesses would appear on Plaintiffs' trial witness list and awaiting Zuffa's own trial witness list.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> As it became clear that the *Le* Action would go to trial, Co-Lead Class Counsel decided to engage an experienced Las Vegas trial attorney, Crane Pomerantz of Clark Hill. Prior to entering private practice as a litigator, Mr. Pomerantz was a federal prosecutor for fourteen years in the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Nevada where he successfully prosecuted several complex and high-profile cases as lead trial counsel and earned a number of awards from the Department of Justice and the prosecuting agencies with which he worked. Mr. Pomerantz was deeply involved in trial preparation in the *Le* Action and figured to play a prominent role in the trial.

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194. During this deposition review and initial designation process, Berger Montague also undertook to ensure Plaintiffs' Rule 26(a) disclosures were complete and current, submitting a new version to Zuffa that was updated to reflect (1) the additional witnesses who had been deposed in the case, and (2) the damages models that Plaintiffs intended to present at trial.

- Once Co-Lead Class Counsel completed their initial deposition review and designations, 195. Co-Lead Counsel and supporting counsel at Warner Angle, Kemp Jones, and Clark Hill analyzed the deposition summaries and compiled Plaintiffs' initial trial witness list.
- Co-Lead Class Counsel served that initial witness list as well as Plaintiffs' deposition designations on Zuffa on February 2, 2024. Plaintiffs' deposition designations covered 10 Zuffa witnesses and 11 third-party witnesses, including designations across 25 separate deposition transcripts.
- When Plaintiffs received Zuffa's deposition designations, Co-Lead Class Counsel commenced to review each designation and (1) record objections to the designation where appropriate, and (2) consider whether any counter-designations were appropriate. Zuffa's affirmative designations covered 10 third-party witnesses and one former Zuffa employee, and Plaintiffs interposed objections to these designations and noted counter-designations where appropriate. Plaintiffs then exchanged these counter-designations and objections with Zuffa on February 23, 2024.
- 198. Following the exchange of counter-designations and objections, Co-Lead Class Counsel commenced to respond to Zuffa's objections to Plaintiffs' initial deposition designations. Zuffa asserted multiple bases for objecting to nearly all of Plaintiffs' deposition designations. Between receiving Zuffa's objections and counter-designations on February 23, 2024, and the deadline for responding to those objections and objecting to the counter designations (February 28, 2024), Co-Lead Class Counsel, for each of the 11 third-party witnesses, (1) drafted responses to each objection to Plaintiffs' initial designations, (2) drafted objections where appropriate to Zuffa's counter-designations, and (3) proposed counters to Zuffa's counter-designations where applicable.

#### b. Further Review of Publicly Available Videos for Use at Trial

In addition to the efforts described above, Co-Lead Class Counsel undertook a further investigation into hundreds of hours of third-party video and audio footage involving Zuffa, its executives, its competitors, and Plaintiff fighters, as well as certain third parties expected to appear at

trial as witnesses. Co-Lead Class Counsel sought to update its prior review of publicly available video footage and ensure that video clips had not previously been missed during discovery that would be useful during direct and/or cross examination of witnesses at trial.

- 200. Co-Lead Class Counsel collected a universe of videos including pre- and post-fight press conferences for more than 230 events during the *Le* Class Period (December 16, 2010 to June 30, 2017), television, YouTube, and podcast interviews featuring potential trial witnesses, and potential trial witnesses' podcast episodes. In all, the total amount of potentially relevant, publicly available audio and video content involving Zuffa's executives alone likely exceeded one thousand hours, and other potential trial witness video and audio files represented hundreds more hours. For certain videos, transcripts were available for searches, but for many of the videos, no such transcripts were available and a real-time review was required (and Co-Lead Class Counsel performed such reviews).
- 201. Co-Lead Class Counsel's collection and review was not limited to video and audio files featuring Zuffa and third-party witnesses. Co-Lead Class Counsel also reviewed many hours of podcasts and video content produced by the *Le* Class Representatives and Quarry to facilitate preparation for the *Le* Class Representatives' and Quarry's cross examinations.
- 202. Once collected with the relevant excerpts identified, Co-Lead Class Counsel commenced to generate nearly 100 relevant clips for use at trial, either during direct or cross examinations, and prepared additional clips for use in preparing trial witnesses.

#### c. Exhibit Lists

- 203. Simultaneously with the work on deposition designations, Co-Lead Class Counsel prepared Plaintiffs' trial exhibit list. Berger Montague oversaw the collection of materials for the list with contributions from other Co-Lead Class Counsel and Warner Angle. These materials included the documents identified in Plaintiffs' prior briefing on class certification, *Daubert*, and Zuffa's motions for summary judgment; materials relied upon in Plaintiffs' expert reports; depositions; and materials attorneys representing Plaintiffs had identified in their preparations for trial. Co-Lead Class Counsel, led by Berger Montague, went through the approximately 1,700 proposed exhibits, culling nearly 500 of those proposed exhibits prior to serving the list on Zuffa on February 8, 2024.
  - 204. Upon receipt of Zuffa's exhibit list on February 8, 2024, Co-Lead Class Counsel divided

up review of the exhibits on the list. Zuffa's exhibit list included more than 960 entries, including lengthy videos and documents. Co-Lead Class Counsel considered and drafted objections as applicable for each of these exhibits, serving those objections on February 22, 2024. Co-Lead Class Counsel also reviewed Zuffa's exhibit list to ascertain whether and how any exhibit or groups of exhibits raised issues appropriate for motions *in limine* (discussed in more detail below).

- 205. When the parties exchanged their objections to each other's exhibit lists, Co-Lead Class Counsel commenced work on responding to Zuffa's (often multiple) objections to each of the more than 1,200 entries on Plaintiffs' exhibit list. Plaintiffs served these responses to Zuffa's objections on February 27, 2024.
- 206. In addition to the foregoing, Co-Lead Class Counsel also worked with Zuffa's counsel to identify those materials appearing on both sides' exhibit lists to identify which exhibits would be "joint exhibits."

#### d. Motions in Limine

- 207. During January and February, Co-Lead Class Counsel considered and researched the appropriateness of various motions *in limine*. Co-Lead Class Counsel reviewed the discovery record in this case, briefing submitted by the parties on various issues, and other indicators of matters that could come up at trial that would be properly addressed by a pretrial motion.
- 208. For example, following Zuffa's service of its preliminary trial witness list, Co-Lead Class Counsel identified the presence of 13 witnesses who had not been disclosed by Zuffa during the discovery period as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1). Berger Montague researched the issue and determined that Plaintiffs were on firm ground to object to these witnesses. Berger Montague commenced a meet and confer concerning these witnesses via email on February 5, 2024. Plaintiffs sought to expedite the briefing on whether these witnesses would be permitted to testify at trial. Zuffa objected to briefing the issue early and stood firm on its position that the witnesses were properly disclosed. Plaintiffs ultimately included this issue as one of Plaintiffs' motions *in limine*.
- 209. On February 12, 2024, the parties exchanged their preliminary lists of motions *in limine*. Plaintiffs' list included motions on 20 issues, and Zuffa's list included motions on 11 issues. Co-Lead Class Counsel then undertook to analyze Zuffa's identified motions *in limine*.

- 210. The parties met and conferred on each other's motions in limine on February 16, 2024.
- 211. Following the meet and confer, the parties exchanged letters and proposals to resolve certain of the motions *in limine* asserted by the other side. Co-Lead Class Counsel also continued to research the viability of Zuffa's proposed motions.
- 212. Co-Lead Class Counsel then commenced to draft their motions *in limine* for filing. On February 29, 2024, Plaintiffs filed twenty motions *in limine*. *See* ECF Nos. 993, 995, 996 & 1001 (drafted by Berger Montague), 997 (Omnibus filing containing four motions drafted by Berger Montague and Cohen Milstein), 999 & 1000 (Omnibus filings each containing five motions, including motions drafted by each Co-Lead Class Counsel firm), 1002 (drafted by Cohen Milstein), 1003 (drafted by JSLF).
- 213. Also on February 29, 2024, Zuffa filed its eleven motions *in limine*. Co-Lead Class Counsel then divided up responsibility for responding to and arguing these motions.
- 214. Co-Lead Class Counsel, along with supporting counsel at Kemp Jones and Clark Hill, attended a hearing on March 4, 2024, at which the Court heard argument on motions *in limine*. At that hearing, Berger Montague and JSLF argued each of the eleven motions *in limine* brought by Zuffa and the twenty motions *in limine* brought by Plaintiffs.
- 215. Plaintiffs won critical motions *in limine* at that March 4 hearing, including the motion seeking to strike the 13 late-disclosed witnesses on Zuffa's witness list (ECF No. 993) and evidence from after the June 30, 2017 close of the class period (ECF No. 996). *See* ECF No. 1010.

#### e. Jury Questionnaire

- 216. Kemp Jones and Clark Hill took the lead in devising a proposed jury questionnaire.
- 217. Co-Lead Class Counsel, with JSLF taking the lead, reviewed the draft jury questionnaire provided by Kemp Jones and Clark Hill, and exchanged it with Zuffa.
- 218. JSLF then worked with Plaintiffs' jury consultant to consolidate the drafts and propose revisions to Zuffa. JSLF then led the meet and confer to finalize the document for submission to the Court.
- 219. Through these efforts, the parties were ultimately able to submit an agreed-upon jury questionnaire to the Court for consideration and use.

#### f. Trial Brief and Fact Stipulations

- 220. Berger Montague, with assistance from Clark Hill, led the drafting of Plaintiffs' Trial Brief, filed on February 22, 2024. ECF No. 978.
- 221. Incident to that drafting, Berger Montague reviewed various materials, including briefing on Zuffa's renewed motion for summary judgment (*see* ECF Nos. 878, 926, 951), summaries of key testimony from the witnesses on Plaintiffs' witness list as prepared by Co-Lead Class Counsel and Warner Angle for Berger Montague's review and consideration in drafting the trial brief, and other key exhibits and planned expert testimony.
- 222. Co-Lead Class Counsel also developed and drafted proposed stipulations of fact for the trial in the *Le* Action. Co-Lead Class Counsel reviewed Zuffa's Answer to the Complaint in the *Le* Action, ECF No. 212, Zuffa's responses to Plaintiffs' Requests for Admission, Zuffa's Rule 30(b)(6) testimony, and Zuffa's motions for summary judgment to identify potential areas for stipulations. The parties then exchanged proposed fact stipulations on February 26, 2024. Co-Lead Class Counsel then commenced to review Zuffa's proposed fact stipulations to identify potential areas of agreement. Co-Lead Class Counsel were preparing to respond to Zuffa's proposed fact stipulations the same day that this Settlement was reached.

#### g. Preparation of Trial Presentations

- 223. Co-Lead Class Counsel further led all aspects of the preparation of Plaintiffs' evidence at trial.
- 224. Berger Montague drafted an opening argument, which went through multiple revisions prior to a mock presentation to Co-Lead Class Counsel, Warner Angle, Kemp Jones, and Clark Hill. Following that mock presentation, the other firms submitted comments and suggestions for Berger Montague's consideration. On February 17, 2024, Berger Montague delivered a version of the opening argument (along with other evidence and argument) to a mock jury for further feedback. After review of the mock jury's deliberations, Berger Montague again revised the opening and presented it to a second mock jury on February 18, 2024. In the weeks that followed, Berger Montague continued to work on the opening argument and began to build out the closing argument.
  - 225. Co-Lead Class Counsel and Clark Hill divided up responsibilities for the presentation of

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Plaintiffs' witnesses and for crossing Zuffa's witnesses.

- 226. Berger Montague and Clark Hill, with assistance from Warner Angle, took the lead in preparing the *Le* Class Representatives and Quarry for their direct and cross examinations. Berger Montague collected materials for preparing those direct examinations through additional interviews of *Le* Class Representatives and Quarry, a further review of the *Le* Class Representatives' and Quarry's document productions in the case, review of important documents previously identified in Zuffa's and third parties' productions, and research of publicly available sources describing events and occurrences in the *Le* Class Representatives' and Quarry's careers. Berger Montague then commenced to draft the direct examination for each *Le* Class Representative and Quarry. Additionally, Clark Hill and Berger Montague drafted and delivered mock cross examinations to prepare the *Le* Class Representatives and Quarry for potential ways in which Zuffa would likely attack their testimony at trial. These in-person and remote mock sessions took place in January and February 2024, as Plaintiffs developed their trial plan.
- 227. Berger Montague and JSLF also undertook to consider how to cull the designated testimony for third-party witnesses who would not appear at trial. Because such testimony would be delivered via video, JSLF and Berger Montague went through the deposition transcripts to identify the most critical testimony Plaintiffs would present to the jury and plan how to work with Zuffa to shorten the ultimate presentation of such video evidence.
- 228. JSLF led the process of issuing subpoenas to trial witnesses. JSLF sought Zuffa's consent to accept service of subpoenas for witnesses on Plaintiffs' trial witness list that Zuffa's counsel represented. JSLF also issued notice to Zuffa of Plaintiffs' intention to subpoena third-party witnesses on Plaintiffs' witness list. Berger Montague, Warner Angle, and Clark Hill worked with representatives of certain third-party witnesses to try to get them to appear live voluntarily, holding multiple in-person meetings and teleconferences incident to that effort.
- 229. Co-Lead Class Counsel and Clark Hill also prepared direct examinations for the fact witnesses assigned to them. Each Co-Lead Class Counsel firm and Clark Hill took responsibility for assignments relating to the witnesses on Plaintiffs' and Zuffa's trial witness lists and began preparing direct and/or cross examinations for those witnesses.

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230. Co-Lead Class Counsel, in particular Berger Montague and Cohen Milstein, took the lead in preparing Plaintiffs' experts for their direct and cross examinations. Berger Montague held multiple full-day preparation sessions with Plaintiffs' expert economist, Dr. Hal Singer, drilling down on the specifics of his testimony. Cohen Milstein, with Berger Montague's support, met with Plaintiffs' expert economist Prof. Andrew Zimbalist to prepare him for his direct and cross examinations through multiple sessions. Cohen Milstein and Berger Montague likewise commenced to prepare for the direct examinations of Plaintiffs' other experts, Guy Davis and Alan Manning, respectively.

#### THE SETTLEMENT

- 231. On March 7, 2024, just weeks prior to the start of trial, Co-Lead Class Counsel and counsel for Defendants reached an agreement-in-principle to settle the Actions. By the time the Settlement occurred, more than nine years of hard-fought litigation had passed, extensive fact and expert discovery was complete, and the parties were on the eve of trial in the Le Action.
- 232. Prior to the Settlement, the parties had participated in significant settlement negotiations, including full-day mediations several years apart (in 2017, 2019, and 2023). Each mediation session was followed by continued discussions with the mediator, the Hon. Layn Phillips.
- After the December 2023 mediation session and as the parties prepared for trial in Le 233. Action, they continued to discuss the possibility of a settlement of the Actions. After extensive arm'slength negotiations between experienced counsel over the course of several years, the parties ultimately reached an agreement-in-principle that led to the Settlement Agreement currently being presented to the Court. After reaching the agreement to settle the Actions, the parties negotiated over seven weeks the precise language of the Settlement Agreement.
- On April 24, 2024, Co-Lead Class Counsel and Defendants executed the Settlement 234. Agreement. The Settlement provides for Defendants to pay \$335 million in cash for the benefit of members of the Settlement Classes (SA  $\P$  1(x)), and to institute significant prospective relief.
- Based on Plaintiffs' experts' evaluation of the data, the Le Class has approximately 1,140 members and the Johnson Settlement Class has approximately 1,290 members, with some individuals being a member of both the Le Class (SA ¶ 1(p)) and the Johnson Class (SA ¶ 1(n)). Given that some individuals are members of both the Le Class and the Johnson Settlement Class, there are

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approximately 1,950 Fighters across the two classes. As noted in the Declaration of Hal J. Singer, Ph.D. In Support of Plan of Allocation (attached as Exhibit 3), Zuffa paid all fighters in the *Le* Class \$556.5 million for participation in bouts between December 16, 2010 and June 30, 2017, and Zuffa paid all fighters in the *Johnson* Settlement Class \$457.9 million (who did not sign contracts with arbitration clauses) for participation in bouts during the period between July 1, 2017 and April 13, 2023. Thus, even without considering the substantial prospective relief, the settlement amount reflects a significant portion of all compensation the UFC paid to fighters in the Settlement Classes who are not subject to arbitration agreements. Further, the Settlement Fund represents a significant portion of the overcharges computed by Plaintiffs' expert economist (Dr. Singer) in his report that was submitted during the expert discovery period in the *Le* Action.

- 236. An initial estimate of the likely distribution of the Net Settlement Fund indicates that each eligible claimant from the *Le* Class may receive an award from the Settlement equaling 25% (or more) of his or her total earnings from bouts from the UFC during the entire *Le* Class Period. Certain claimants from the *Johnson* Settlement Class will receive as much as 10% of their lifetime bout earnings from the UFC during the *Johnson* Class Period, in addition to benefitting from the prospective relief provided.
- 237. The prospective relief set forth in the Settlement is substantial, and locks in the following benefits to fighters for the five (5) years after final approval: 15
  - a. Zuffa will not impose as a term of its Promotional and Ancillary Rights Agreements an Exclusive Negotiation Period longer than 30 days. *See* SA ¶6(a).
  - b. Zuffa will not impose as a term of its Promotional and Ancillary Rights Agreements a Right to Match Period following the expiration of the Exclusive Negotiation Period of longer than four (4) months. See SA ¶6(b).
  - c. Zuffa will limit any extension of the term of its Promotional and Ancillary Rights
    Agreements in the event a UFC fighter turns down a bout with an opponent Zuffa designates

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> As Co-Lead Class Counsel understands it, Defendants implemented certain of these contractual changes at some point after the *Le* Class Period (December 16, 2010 to June 30, 2017) had ended but before the *Johnson* Action was filed. Given the timing, it is likely that Defendants made these changes, at least in part, as a response to the *Le* Action. As discussed *infra*, absent these provisions in the Settlement, Defendants would be free to revert to their prior practices in the event the *Le* Class lost at trial and/or the Settlement did not require these changes going forward.

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(regardless whether because the fighter is unable or unwilling to accept the bout), to the longer of the length of time sufficient to find a new opponent or for six (6) months. See SA  $\P6(c)$ .

- d. Zuffa will change the way its "Retirement Clause" operates. Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, if a UFC Fighter announces his or her retirement, Zuffa may, at its election, (i) suspend the Term for the period of such retirement or disability (such suspension not to exceed four (4) years, the "Maximum Suspension Period"), (ii) declare that Zuffa has satisfied their obligations to promote all future Bouts to be promoted by the UFC under the Promotional and Ancillary Rights Agreement, without any compensation due to the fighter therefor, and/or (iii) provide the fighter with notice of termination in accordance with the Promotional and Ancillary Rights Agreement. At the expiration of the Maximum Suspension Period, if the Fighter remains in retirement or such disability continues, the Promotional and Ancillary Rights Agreement shall automatically terminate. See SA ¶6(d).
- e. Zuffa agrees that UFC fighters shall retain the right to use their own identities, including by way of illustration and not limitation, fighters' names, images, voices and likenesses, in connection with the creation, development, manufacture, distribution, marketing and sale directly or by third parties of Merchandise. SA ¶6(e).
- f. Zuffa agrees to provide fighters up to three (3) still images of the fighter, the licensing of which shall be governed by a licensing application to and approval by Getty Images. SA ¶6(e).
- 238. The significance of some of the elements of the prospective relief is supported by record evidence. For instance, Zuffa's then-Chief Legal Officer, Kirk Hendrick, testified as Zuffa's designee pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6) concerning the Exclusive Negotiation Period. Hendrick confirmed that prior to around 2011, Zuffa had a 60-day Exclusive Negotiation Period, but then around the time the FTC opened its inquiry in 2011, Zuffa ceased to include an Exclusive Negotiation Period in its Promotional and Ancillary Rights Agreements. After the FTC closed that inquiry, Zuffa reinstated the Exclusive Negotiation Period, but increased its duration from 60-days to 90-days. Hendrick testified on Zuffa's behalf that the reason Zuffa reinstated the Exclusive Negotiation Period was that:

[D]uring that interim period [without an Exclusive Negotiation Period] that some athletes, and to their credit, they would say to their managers or us, 'I don't want to talk about my contract right now. I'm preparing for a big fight, a fight that's coming up in a month or two months or whatever, and I don't want to deal with my contract. What would happen then to our ability to negotiate is that we wouldn't have that window of opportunity before their last fight, and so we decided that we need that short window of opportunity after their last fight.

Deposition of Kirk Hendrick (Rule 30(b)(6)) Vol. I, 250:12-23 (Nov. 29, 2016).

239. Mr. Hendrick's testimony bears upon the value of a part of the prospective relief

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afforded by the Settlement. First, it shows that, absent the Settlement, there was a realistic possibility that Zuffa would have reinstated some of the challenged contractual provisions. Second, the episode reflects how even minor changes in the challenged provisions can have tangible benefits for the Fighters. In the Settlement, Zuffa agreed to maintain the reduction in the Exclusive Negotiation Period that had prevailed through the class period in *Le* (90-days) to 30-days.

- 240. That the prospective relief locks in the reduction in the length of the Right to Match Period that Zuffa implemented after the Le class period ended is also significant. Multiple witnesses attested to the challenges that the Right to Match Period created for UFC fighters who wanted to leave for another promotion, but whom the UFC wanted to retain. At least up through the end of the Le Class Period (June 30, 2017), UFC fighters had a 12-month Right to Match Period. For a fighter who wanted to leave the UFC (but whom the UFC wanted to retain), such a fighter could not risk obtaining an offer from a rival MMA promoter and allowing Zuffa to match it. As a result, such a fighter would have to wait out the Exclusive Negotiation Period and the Right to Match Period before obtaining and accepting an offer from a rival MMA promoter. See Deposition of Joe Silva, 186:4-12 (June 7, 2017) ("Q. Would you agree with me that if there was a UFC fighter who no longer wanted to fight with the UFC for some reason and the UFC was determined to match any offer, that that fighter would need to wait the 90 days of the exclusive negotiation period and then the 12 months of the right to match; correct? A. That's my understanding."). The difference between 15 months (90-day Exclusive Negotiation Period and 12-month Right to Match Period) prevailing prior to and during the bulk of the Le Action's relevant time period (from January 2005 through June 2017) and the maximum five months (30-day Exclusive Negotiation Period and 4-month Right to Match Period) permitted by the Settlement Agreement is not insignificant. As Mr. Hendrick testified: "[i]f [a fighter is] ready, willing and able to fight and they want to fight, 12 months I would say is a time period that is significant for a fighter's career." Deposition of Kirk Hendrick (Rule 30(b)(6)) Vol. I, 267:10-13 (Nov. 29, 2016).
- 241. The limitation on the length of contract extensions Zuffa may impose on fighters who are unable or unwilling to accept bouts is likewise beneficial to the fighters. Throughout the record in the *Le* Action are documents that reflect significantly longer extensions than six months (the maximum extension permissible under the Settlement Agreement for a fighter unable or unwilling to compete).

Maintaining a hard limit of six months on these extensions will be beneficial to fighters seeking to

escape the UFC's contracts.

242. Based on, *inter alia*, Dr. Singer's analyses finding that the median career length for an MMA Fighter was brief, just 41 months, *see*, *e.g.*, Expert Report of Hal J. Singer, Ph.D., ¶20, 88-91 (ECF No. 518-3), Co-Lead Class Counsel believe this prospective relief is significant. As Dr. Singer opined, the long duration of UFC Promotional and Ancillary Rights Agreements, coupled with the challenged provisions that allow Zuffa to extend the term and or retain exclusive negotiation or matching rights thereafter for 12-15 months, was capable of coercing MMA Fighters to re-sign with the UFC for suppressed compensation. Going forward, the prospective relief at issue here can help reduce Zuffa's considerable leverage over UFC Fighters.

- 243. Co-Lead Class Counsel does not believe that this Settlement solves all of the antitrust problems this litigation sought to address, nor would it eliminate or fully ameliorate key contractual provisions that Plaintiffs had challenged. Indeed, the Settlement Agreement states explicitly that "Plaintiffs' agreement to the prospective relief provisions [in the Settlement Agreement] shall not be deemed or considered a concession that Defendants' promotion or other agreements, or any parts thereof, are procompetitive or are not anticompetitive." SA ¶7. The cash and prospective relief provided by the Settlement nevertheless represents an extraordinary result given the litigation risk discussed *infra*.
- 244. Co-Lead Class Counsel have collectively prosecuted numerous antitrust class actions as lead counsel or in other leadership positions. We have each personally negotiated many class and non-class litigation settlements. In our opinion, the Settlement Agreement with Defendants in the Actions is more than fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Settlement avoids the delay and uncertainly of continued protracted litigation against Defendants. It provides substantial benefits to members of the Settlement Classes through significant compensation and the potential amelioration of some of the key conduct that Plaintiffs had challenged as anticompetitive.
- 245. Furthermore, Co-Lead Class Counsel have consulted with Prof. Eric Posner concerning the quality of results achieved through this Settlement. Prof. Posner is the Kirkland and Ellis Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago Law School, who has extensive academic

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experience and expertise in antitrust law and its application to labor markets, and who has served as Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General of the Antitrust Division at the Department of Justice. He observes that "claims against employers for anticompetitive behavior in labor markets are relatively rare and difficult in comparison to other types of antitrust claims, and that labor-side section 2 claims of this type have been vanishingly rare." *See* Declaration of Professor Eric A. Posner in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement (attached hereto as Exhibit 2), ¶1. Moreover, as part of Prof. Posner's academic research, he has found that *Le v. Zuffa* "is the first such claim ever to survive summary judgment, reach class certification, or even survive a motion to dismiss." *Id.* These findings further support Co-Lead Class Counsel's opinion that the Settlement provides an excellent result for the Settlement Classes.

#### LITIGATION RISK

- 246. The Actions presented significant litigation risks that could have resulted in no recovery for the Settlement Classes nor any prospective relief. The substantial relief obtained was achieved without the benefit of a governmental investigation or intervention, but instead proceeded solely through the initiative, investigation, and resources of private parties and counsel (and despite the FTC twice declining to challenge the UFC's allegedly anti-competitive conduct).
- 247. The FTC twice investigated the UFC's conduct and twice declined to pursue it. Solely through the considerable and combined efforts and investment of Co-Lead Class Counsel, Supporting Counsel at Warner Angle, Kemp Jones, Clark Hill, and others, along with the *Le* and *Johnson* Class Representatives and Quarry, this Settlement stands to provide significant relief to the members of the Settlement Classes now and going forward.
- 248. Defendants asserted multiple challenges to the merits of Plaintiffs' claims. For instance, Defendants argued that Zuffa and its conduct made the industry what it is today, creating opportunities (not thwarting them) for MMA fighters; that Zuffa pays more than any other MMA promoter; that Zuffa has consistently increased the absolute level of compensation paid to fighters throughout the relevant period; and that Zuffa needs the challenged contract provisions to ensure that it can put on all of its planned events (and to increase the number of MMA events that Zuffa puts on each year, as Zuffa allegedly had throughout the period at issue).

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249. Defendants retained expert economists who opined that the challenged conduct was procompetitive, not anticompetitive, and that Plaintiffs' methods of proving impact and damages to the proposed classes were unreliable and thus that (i) the proposed classes could not be certified for litigation purposes, and (ii) Plaintiffs could not prove they or Class Members suffered any harm from the challenged conduct.

- 250. Zuffa aggressively fought class certification (including a petition to appeal to the Ninth Circuit pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(f)). While Plaintiffs prevailed on their motion to certify the *Le* Class, certifying a litigation class in the *Johnson* Action would not have been certain. Zuffa changed its contracts after the close of the relevant time-period in the *Le* Action (*i.e.*, post-June 2017). Because Plaintiffs' methods of proving key class issues related to the length of time of certain contractual provisions that Defendants have now shortened, these changes had the potential to require Plaintiffs to use a different model to show class-wide impact and damages to obtain a litigation class in the *Johnson* Action. Further, the Ninth Circuit's denial of Zuffa's petition for interlocutory review was without prejudice to Zuffa's ability to re-raise its challenge to class certification in the *Le* Action after any verdict in a trial in the *Le* Action.
- 251. While Plaintiffs have aggressively disputed Defendants' arguments and positions throughout these Actions, as with all complex antitrust litigation, there was substantial risk of adverse outcomes on these and other issues, in addition to the possibility of lengthy delays (including from appeals after trial in *Le* and after class certification and/or trial in *Johnson*). Antitrust class actions are "arguably the most complex action(s) to prosecute. The legal and factual issues involved are always numerous and uncertain in outcome." *In re Packaged Ice Antitrust Litig.*, 2011 WL 6209188, at \*19 (E.D. Mich. Dec. 13, 2011) ("*Packaged Ice II*") (quoting *In re Linerboard Antitrust Litig.*, 292 F. Supp. 2d 631, 639 (E.D. Pa. 2003)); *see also In re Cardizem CD Antitrust Litig.*, 218 F.R.D. 508, 533 (E.D. Mich. 2003) ("*Cardizem II*") ("Antitrust class actions are inherently complex").
- 252. Critically, the April 2024 trial was limited to the *Le* Action and offered the potential only of monetary relief, without any available injunctive/prospective relief. And even such potential monetary relief was both substantially uncertain and likely a long way from any distribution. While Plaintiffs were confident of their ability to prevail before a Nevada jury in the *Le* Action, any jury

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award of damages would still have been subject to a lengthy appellate process. As noted supra, such an appeal would likely challenge both the Order certifying the Le Class as well as various aspects of the merits of the litigation. Any appeal would create both risk of undoing any monetary relief awarded and necessarily would create substantial additional delay.

- Further, Co-Lead Class Counsel made the difficult decision not to pursue injunctive relief on behalf of the Le Class, and instead pursue such relief only on behalf of the proposed class in the Johnson Action. Pursuing injunctive relief in the Le Action would have required relinquishing the April 2024 trial date and re-opening discovery in the Le Action, and would have caused considerable additional delay to any monetary recovery or other relief for the Le Class as the parties continued to litigate discovery issues for potentially years to come. Indeed, the Le Class has been awaiting this trial for nearly a decade since the filing of the Le Action, and a significant proportion of the Le Class has not fought an MMA bout for many years. Co-Lead Class Counsel thus determined that the Le Class should go to trial expeditiously.
- 254. Moreover, Defendants would have asserted various arguments and defenses at the Le trial, which could have resonated with at least one juror—potentially causing a hung jury and requiring that the case be re-tried. While Co-Lead Class Counsel were confident in Plaintiffs' ability to obtain a unanimous verdict in favor of Plaintiffs, the risk that one or more jurors would not side with Plaintiffs could not be dismissed out of hand.
- 255. As to the proposed Johnson Class, the Le trial also posed substantial risk. While an unfavorable verdict in the Le trial would not be binding on the members of the proposed Johnson Class, such result would have a practical impact on the potential relief the proposed Johnson Class could obtain in the near and long term. Defendants would have little incentive to negotiate anywhere close to the relief available to the proposed Johnson Settlement Class as part of this Settlement if Plaintiffs had lost the Le trial, and there would be significant questions as to whether continuing to litigate the Johnson Action following an unfavorable verdict in Le would have been viable. Thus, in many respects, the fate of the proposed Johnson Settlement Class was tied to the fate of the Le Action, even though the members of the Johnson Settlement Class had no direct stake in the Le Action.
  - Furthermore, at some point during the time-period relevant to the *Johnson* Action (i.e.,

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after July 1, 2017), the UFC began to require UFC Fighters to sign Promotional and Ancillary Rights Agreements containing a provision that purports to (1) require the fighters to arbitrate any claims against Defendants ("Arbitration Provision"), and (2) waive fighters' right to pursue their claims on a class action basis ("Class Waiver Provision"; together with the Arbitration Provisions, "the Arbitration Clauses"). According to data produced by the UFC, approximately 55% of the *Johnson* Settlement Class has Arbitration Clauses in their Promotional and Ancillary Rights Agreements with the UFC. Although the validity of the Arbitration Clauses has not yet been litigated, UFC Fighters with the Arbitration Clauses bear significant risk that their claims could not be litigated in federal court and could not be litigated on a class basis at all. Additionally, as the Le Action reflects, bringing the Johnson Action through trial would require millions of dollars in out-of-pocket costs and tens of millions of dollars' worth of attorney time. If the class action mechanism was deemed unavailable to the Johnson Settlement Class members signing the Arbitration Clauses following litigation of the validity of those clauses, those Johnson Settlement Class members would likely recover nothing. Moreover, in the event the Court (or an arbitrator) determined the Arbitration Clauses to be valid, the potential recovery to the Johnson Settlement Class as a whole would have become significantly lower because only 46% of the Johnson Settlement Class does not have Arbitration Clauses in their Promotional and Ancillary Rights Agreements with the UFC.

#### NOTICE TO THE SETTLEMENT CLASSES

257. In connection with the Motion for Preliminary Approval, Co-Lead Class Counsel proposes a "Notice Plan" comparable to the successful notice provided in connection with certification of the *Le* Class. See ECF No. 916 & 920 (Plaintiffs' Unopposed Motion for Approval of Class Notice Plan); ECF No. 921 (Order granting Plaintiffs' Unopposed Motion for Approval of Class Notice Plan); ECF No. 966 (Plaintiffs' Notice of: (1) Effectuation of Class Notice Plan, and (2) No Exclusions from Bout Class).

258. Pursuant to the proposed Notice Plan, the proposed Claims Administrator (Angeion Group) will issue notice to the members of the Settlement Classes through substantially similar means as used to issue notice to the *Le* Class, including both print and email notice as well as poster notices posted at MMA gyms. Through these mechanisms, the Claims Administrator will provide notice of the

Settlement to the members of both Settlement Classes.

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Following approval of the Settlement, members of the Settlement Classes will be able to submit claim forms to establish their entitlement to their shares of the monetary relief afforded by the Settlement. Members of the Settlement Class will benefit from the prospective relief afforded by the Settlement regardless of whether they submit a claim form.

#### EXHIBITS TO JOINT DECLARATION OF ERIC L. CRAMER, RICHARD A. KOFFMAN, AND JOSEPH R. SAVERI IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT

- 260. Attached as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of the Settlement Agreement and its exhibit, dated April 24, 2024.
- 261. Attached as Exhibit 2 is a true and correct copy of the Declaration of Professor Eric A. Posner in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement and its exhibit, dated May 13, 2024.
  - Attached as Exhibit 3 is a true and correct copy of the Plan of Allocation. 262.
- Attached as Exhibit 4 is a true and correct copy of the Declaration of Hal J. Singer, 263. Ph.D. in Support of Plan of Allocation, dated May 15, 2024.
- Attached as Exhibit 5 is a true and correct copy of the Declaration of Steven Weisbrot, 264. Esq. of Angeion Group LLC Re the Settlement Notice Plan and its exhibits, dated May 20, 2024.

#### **CONCLUSION**

265. For the reasons set forth above and in the accompanying Memorandum of Law, we respectfully submit that under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e), the Settlement's terms are fair, reasonable, and adequate in all respects and should be preliminarily approved.

#### Case 2:15-cv-01045-RFB-BNW Document 1024-2 Filed 05/21/24 Page 63 of 63 I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on May 21, 1 2 2024, in Philadelphia, PA. 3 /s/ Eric L. Cramer Eric L. Cramer\* 4 BERGER MONTAGUE PC 5 1818 Market Street, Suite 3600 Philadelphia, PA 19106 6 Tel: (215) 875-3000 ecramer@bm.net 7 8 9 I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on May 21, 10 2024, in Washington, DC. 11 /s/ Richard A. Koffman Richard A. Koffman\* 12 **COHEN MILSTEIN SELLERS & TOLL** 13 PLLC 1100 New York Ave., N.W. 14 Suite 500 East, Tower Washington, DC 20005 15 Telephone: +1 (202) 408-4600 Email: rkoffman@cohenmilstein.com 16 17 I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on May 21, 18 2024, in San Francisco, CA. 19 /s/ Joseph R. Saveri 20 Joseph R. Saveri\* 21 JOSEPH SAVERI LAW FIRM, LLP 601 California St., Suite 1000 22 San Francisco, CA 94108 Telephone: +1 (415) 500-6800 23 Email: jsaveri@saverilawfirm.com 24 \*Admitted pro hac vice 25 26 27 28 62

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#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 1 FOR THE DISTRICT NEVADA 2 CUNG LE, NATHAN QUARRY, JON FITCH, 3 Case No. 2:15-cv-01045-RFB-BNW BRANDON VERA, LUIS JAVIER VAZQUEZ, and KYLE KINGSBURY, On Behalf of 4 Themselves and All Others Similarly Situated, 5 Plaintiffs, 6 v. 7 8 ZUFFA, LLC, D/B/A ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP and UFC, 9 Defendant. 10 KAJAN JOHNSON and CLARENCE 11 DOLLAWAY, On Behalf of Themselves and All Case No. 2:21-cv-01189-RFB-BNW Others Similarly Situated, 12 13 Plaintiffs, 14 VS. 15 ZUFFA, LLC, TKO OPERATING COMPANY, 16 LLC F/K/A ZUFFA PARENT LLC (D/B/A ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP and 17 UFC), and ENDEAVOR GROUP HOLDINGS, INC., 18 19 Defendants. 20 21 INDEX OF EXHIBITS TO JOINT DECLARATION OF ERIC L. CRAMER, RICHARD A. KOFFMAN, AND JOSEPH R. SAVERI IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' 22 MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT 23 24 25 26 27 28

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Pursuant to Local Civil Rule IA 10-3(d), Plaintiffs submit this Index of Exhibits to the Declaration of Eric L. Cramer, Richard A. Koffman, and Joseph R. Saveri in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement:

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	Description
1	Settlement Agreement and its exhibit (April 24, 2024)
2	Declaration of Professor Eric A. Posner in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion
	for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement and its exhibit (May 13, 2024)
3	Plan of Allocation
4	Declaration of Hal J. Singer, Ph.D. in Support of Plan of Allocation (May
	15, 2024)
5	Declaration of Steven Weisbrot, Esq. of Angeion Group LLC Re the
	Settlement Notice Plan and its exhibits (May 20, 2024)

#### Case 2:15-cv-01045-RFB-BNW Document 1024-3 Filed 05/21/24 Page 3 of 5 Dated: May 21, 2024 Respectfully submitted, 1 2 /s/ Eric L. Cramer Eric L. Cramer (pro hac vice) 3 Michael Dell'Angelo (pro hac vice) Ellen T. Noteware (pro hac vice) 4 Patrick F. Madden (pro hac vice) Najah Jacobs (pro hac vice) 5 BERGER MONTAGUE PC 6 1818 Market St., Suite 3600 Philadelphia, PA 19103 Telephone: +1 (215) 875-3000 Email: ecramer@bm.net 8 Email: mdellangelo@bm.net Email: enoteware@bm.net Email: pmadden@bm.net 10 Email: njacobs@bm.net 11 Joshua P. Davis (pro hac vice) BERGER MONTAGUE PC 12 505 Montgomery Street, Suite 625 13 San Francisco, CA 94111 Telephone: +1 (415) 906-0684 14 Email: jdavis@bm.net 15 Richard A. Koffman (pro hac vice) 16 Benjamin Brown (pro hac vice) Daniel Silverman (pro hac vice) 17 Daniel L. Gifford (pro hac vice) COHEN MILSTEIN SELLERS & TOLL 18 **PLLC** 1100 New York Ave., N.W. 19 Suite 500 East, Tower 20 Washington, DC 20005 Telephone: +1 (202) 408-4600 21 Facsimile: +1 (202) 408-4699 Email: rkoffman@cohenmilstein.com 22 Email: bbrown@cohenmilstein.com 23 Email: dsilverman@cohenmilstein.com Email: dgifford@cohenmilstein.com 24 25 26 27 28

#### Case 2:15-cv-01045-RFB-BNW Document 1024-3 Filed 05/21/24 Page 4 of 5 2 Joseph R. Saveri (pro hac vice) Kevin E. Rayhill (pro hac vice) 3 Christopher Young (pro hac vice) Itak Moradi (pro hac vice) 4 JOSEPH SAVERI LAW FIRM, LLP 5 601 California St., Suite 1505 San Francisco, CA 94108 6 Telephone: +1 (415) 500-6800 Facsimile: +1 (415) 395-9940 Email: jsaveri@saverilawfirm.com 8 Email: krayhill@saverilawfirm.com Email: cyoung@saverilawfirm.com Email: imoradi@saverilawfirm.com 10 Co-Lead Counsel for the Le Class, Settlement Class Counsel for the Le Settlement Class and 11 the Johnson Settlement Class and Attorneys for Individual and Representative Plaintiffs 12 Cung Le, Nathan Quarry, Jon Fitch, Brandon Vera, Luis Javier Vazquez, Kyle Kingsbury, 13 Kajan Johnson, Clarence Dollaway, and Tristan Connelly 14 15 Don Springmeyer (Bar No. 1021) KEMP JONES, LLP 16 3800 Howard Hughes Parkway, 17th Floor 17 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 Telephone: +1 (702) 385-6000 18 Facsimile: +1 (702) 385-6001 Email: dspringmeyer@kempjones.com 19 20 Liaison Counsel for the Le Class, Settlement Class Counsel for the Le Settlement Class and 21 the Johnson Settlement Class and Attorneys for Individual and Representative Plaintiffs 22 Cung Le, Nathan Quarry, Jon Fitch, Brandon 23 Vera, Luis Javier Vazquez, Kyle Kingsbury, Kajan Johnson, Clarence Dollaway, and 24 Tristan Connelly 25 26 27 28 INDEX OF EXHIBITS TO JOINT DECLARATION OF ERIC L. CRAMER,

#### Case 2:15-cv-01045-RFB-BNW Document 1024-3 Filed 05/21/24 Page 5 of 5 Robert C. Maysey (pro hac vice) 2 Jerome K. Elwell (pro hac vice) WARNER ANGLE HALLAM JACKSON 3 & FORMANEK PLC 2555 E. Camelback Road, Suite 800 4 Phoenix, AZ 85016 5 Telephone: +1 (602) 264-7101 Facsimile: +1 (602) 234-0419 6 Email: rmaysey@warnerangle.com Email: jelwell@warnerangle.com 7 8 Crane M. Pomerantz CLARK HILL PLC 9 1700 Pavilion Center Dr., Suite 500 Las Vegas, NV 89135 10 Telephone: +1 (702) 697-7545 Email: cpomerantz@clarkhill.com 11 12 Additional Counsel for the Le Settlement Class and the Johnson Settlement Class and 13 Attorneys for Individual and Representative Plaintiffs Cung Le, Nathan Quarry, Jon Fitch, 14 Brandon Vera, Luis Javier Vazquez, Kyle 15 Kingsbury, Kajan Johnson, Clarence Dollaway, and Tristan Connelly 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 INDEX OF EXHIBITS TO JOINT DECLARATION OF ERIC L. CRAMER,

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## EXHIBIT 1

(The full version of Exhibit 1 to the May 21, 2024 Joint Declaration is available at ECF No. 1024-4)

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# EXHIBIT 2

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Cung Le, Nathan Quarry, Jon Fitch, Brandon Vera, Luis Javier Vazquez, and Kyle Kingsbury, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, No.: 2:15-cv-01045-RFB-BNW Plaintiffs, Zuffa, LLC, d/b/a Ultimate Fighting Championship and UFC, Defendant. Kajan Johnson, Clarence Dollaway, and Tristan Connelly, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, Plaintiffs, VS. No.: 2:21-cv-1189-RFB BNW Zuffa, LLC, TKO Operating Company, LLC f/k/a Zuffa Parent LLC (d/b/a Ultimate Fighting Championship and UFC) and Endeavor Group Holdings, Inc., Defendants.

## DECLARATION OF PROFESSOR ERIC A. POSNER IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT IN BOTH ABOVE-CAPTIONED MATTERS

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. I have been asked by the plaintiffs in the above-captioned cases to provide context for the proposed class settlement by explaining the litigation risks faced by plaintiffs when they filed their claim and the significance of the settlement for enforcement of the antitrust laws. My understanding is that the plaintiffs settled these cases for \$335 million in addition to certain prospective relief relating to the challenged practices. Below, I explain that antitrust claims

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against employers for anticompetitive behavior in labor markets are relatively rare and difficult

in comparison to other types of antitrust claims, and that labor-side section 2 claims of this type

have been vanishingly rare. As far as I have discovered in my research, Le v. Zuffa is the first

such claim ever to survive summary judgment, reach class certification, or even survive a motion

to dismiss. The settlement will encourage more plaintiffs to bring cases to enforce an important

but neglected policy embodied in the antitrust laws—that of ensuring that labor markets, and not

just product markets, are competitive.

II. **QUALIFICATIONS** 

> 2. I am the Kirkland and Ellis Distinguished Service Professor at the University of

Chicago Law School. Before joining the Chicago faculty in 1998, I taught at the University of

Pennsylvania Law School. I was educated at Yale College and Harvard Law School.

3. I have extensive academic experience and expertise in antitrust law and its

application to labor markets. I have taught classes, given lectures, and written frequently about

this topic. In addition to numerous articles on antitrust in labor markets in academic journals, I

published a book on the topic in 2021 entitled How Antitrust Failed Workers (Oxford University

Press).

I worked on labor and antitrust issues while serving as Counsel to the Assistant 4.

Attorney General of the Antitrust Division in the Department of Justice from 2022 to 2023.

I have substantial practical experience in antitrust law. From 2010 to 2016, I was 5.

counsel at Boies, Schiller, and Flexner, where I participated in antitrust cases. From 2018 to

<sup>1</sup> I recently learned that Boies, Schiller, and Flexner represented Zuffa in this matter during my final years as counsel to the firm. I did not play any role in that litigation and, indeed, I was

unaware of the representation at the time.

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2022 and from February 2024 to the present, I have been counsel at MoloLamken, where I have litigated antitrust cases. I am a member of the bar of the states of Illinois and Maryland.

- 6. I have testified or made presentations on the application of antitrust law to labor markets before the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law, U.S. House of Representatives; the Federal Trade Commission; the Department of Justice; the National Association of Attorneys General; and various practitioner and academic groups.
- 7. I am a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Council of the American Law Institute.
  - 8. My most recent curriculum vitae is appended to this report.

#### III. ANALYSIS

## A. Background on Labor Antitrust

9. While the Supreme Court has recognized that antitrust law protects workers from anticompetitive behavior since the 1920s, "labor-side" antitrust cases or "labor antitrust" cases, as they are sometimes called, have been rare. In *Anderson v. Shipowners Association*, the Court held that employees of ship transport companies could bring an antitrust claim against those companies for fixing wages and agreeing not to poach workers. In 2021, in *NCAA v. Alston*, the Court held that student athletes may bring antitrust claims against universities that bought their

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> I use the terms "labor-side antitrust" or "labor antitrust" to refer to antitrust cases in which employees or independent contractors allege that a firm has engaged in anticompetitive actions in a labor market in violation of the antitrust laws. To avoid confusion, I will use the term "worker" to refer to individuals who supply labor to a firm in return for compensation, regardless of whether they are formally classified as employees or independent contractors.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Anderson v. Shipowners Ass'n, 272 U.S. 359 (1926).

labor. Along the way, various lower courts also recognized labor-side antitrust claims. But such cases have always been rare. One reason for the relative sparsity of such claims is that, historically, economists and antitrust experts have generally assumed that labor markets were competitive. In addition, labor advocates may have believed that unions should take the lead in protecting workers from abusive employment conditions.

- 10. Developments over the last fifteen years have shattered these assumptions.
- 11. First, as employment data became more available and statistical methods improved, economists learned that labor markets are in fact often highly concentrated. For example, one prominent study found that 60% of labor markets have HHIs greater than 2,500, and a quarter of labor markets have HHIs greater than 7,200—in the latter case, implying thousands of firms that employ more than 80% of the workers in a labor market. Labor markets are also frequently burdened by employer-imposed restraints on labor market competition, including no-poach agreements and covenants not to compete. Recent studies have found that hundreds of franchises used no-poach agreements to restrict mobility of their workers among

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Ass'n v. Alston, 141 S. Ct. 2141 (2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See, e.g., *Todd v. Exxon Corp.*, 275 F.3d 191 (2d Cir. 2001).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> ERIC A. POSNER, HOW ANTITRUST FAILED WORKERS (2021); Eric A. Posner, *The New Labor Antitrust*, ANTITRUST L.J. (forthcoming, 2024), https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\_id=4575258.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See, e.g., José Azar, Ioana Marinescu, & Marshall Steinbaum, *Labor Market Concentration*, 57 J. HUM. RES. S167 (2022); David Berger, Kyle Herkenhoff, & Simon Mongey, *Labor Market Power*, 112 AM. ECON. REV. 1147 (2022).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See José Azar, Ioana Marinescu, Marshall Steinbaum, & Bledi Taska, Concentration in US Labor Markets: Evidence from Online Vacancy Data, 66 LABOR. ECON. 1018 (2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> See Alan B. Krueger & Orley Ashenfelter, *Theory and Evidence on Employer Collusion in the Franchise Sector*, 57 J. Hum. Res. S324 (2022); Evan Starr, *Consider This: Training, Wages, and the Enforceability of Covenants Not to Compete*, 72 ILR Rev. 783 (2019).

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franchisees. <sup>10</sup> Thousands of firms overuse covenants not to compete, which cover tens of millions of workers. <sup>11</sup>

- 12. Second, whether or not unions adequately protected workers, union membership has declined significantly since the 1950s. <sup>12</sup> This has been due to a variety of factors out of the control of workers, including globalization, technological changes, the advance of union-busting strategies, the growing practice of characterizing workers as "independent contractors," and changes in labor law. <sup>13</sup> As a result, the vast majority of workers lack union representation.
- 13. Recent economic research has found that labor market concentration, mergers, nopoach agreements, covenants not to compete, and related restraints on labor market competition
  are responsible for a range of economic harms—including lower wages, lower economic output,
  reduced worker mobility, worse job conditions, and reduced innovation. <sup>14</sup> Lower-income
  workers have been particularly hard-hit by employment restraints, which, in addition to being
  inefficient, transfer economic surplus from workers to usually wealthier shareholders and other

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See, e.g., Brian Callaci, Matthew Gibson, Sergio Pinto, Marshall Steinbaum, & Matthew Walsh, *The Effect of No-poaching Restrictions on Worker Earnings in Franchised Industries* (July 2023), <a href="mailto:ssrn.com/abstract=4155577">ssrn.com/abstract=4155577</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Natarajan Balasubramanian, Evan Starr, & Shotaro Yamaguchi, *Employment Restrictions on Resource Transferability and Value Appropriation from Employees* (2023), papers.ssrn.com/abstract=3814403.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Anna Stansbury & Lawrence H. Summers, *The Declining Worker Power Hypothesis: An Explanation for the Recent Evolution of the American Economy* (Nat'l Bureau of Econ. Rsch., Working Paper No. 27193, 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> See *id.*; Posner, *supra* note 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> See, e.g., Elena Prager & Matt Schmitt, *Employer Consolidation and Wages: Evidence from Hospitals*, 111 AM. ECON. REV 397 (2021) (mergers); Mark K. Meiselbach & Matthew D. Eisenberg, Labor Market Concentration and Employee Health Benefits (unpub., 2023), <a href="mailto:ssrn.com/abstract=4499203">ssrn.com/abstract=4499203</a> (impact on health benefits). Additional sources are discussed in Posner, *New Labor Antitrust*, *supra* note 6.

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owners of capital. 15 While unions sometimes ameliorate these impacts, only six percent of private-sector employees are unionized. 16

- Trade Commission ramped up enforcement of the antitrust laws in labor markets. They issued a Human Resources Guidance in 2016 that warned employers that no-poach agreements and other labor restraints were illegal and potentially criminal, <sup>17</sup> updated the Merger Guidelines in 2023 to include a section laying out their approach to evaluating the labor market effects of mergers, <sup>18</sup> began challenging mergers based on labor market effects, <sup>19</sup> and initiated or intervened in labor-side antitrust litigation against employers. <sup>20</sup> The Department of Justice also brought several criminal cases, <sup>21</sup> while the FTC recently issued a rule banning covenants not to compete and related anticompetitive employment restraints. <sup>22</sup>
- 15. While this activity has raised the profile of employer abuse in labor markets and spurred private litigation, labor antitrust cases remain rare. There are three reasons for this. First,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Ihsaan Bassier, Arindrajit Dube, & Suresh Naidu, *Monopsony in Movers: The Elasticity of Labor Supply to Firm Wage Policies*, 57 J. HUM. RES. S50 (2022) (finding that monopsonistic competition is widespread even in low-wage, high-turnover sectors).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> See Paul D. Romero & Julie M. Whittaker, *A Brief Examination of Union Membership Data*, Congressional Research Service Report No. R47596, June 16, 2023.

 $<sup>^{17}</sup>$  U.S. Dep't of Just. & Fed. Trade Comm'n, Antitrust Guidance for Human Resource Professionals (2016).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> U.S. Dep't of Just. & Fed. Trade Comm'n, Merger Guidelines (2023).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> United States v. Bertelsmann SE & Co. KGaA, 646 F. Supp. 3d 1, 32 (D.D.C. 2022); Fed. Trade Comm'n v. Kroger Co., No. 3:2024cv00347 (D. Or. filed Feb. 26, 2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> See, e.g., *Prudential Sec.*, FTC No. 2210026 (2023); *United States v. Cargill Meat Solutions Corp.* et al., 2022 WL 3083615.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> See, e.g., *United States v. Jindal*, No. 4:20-cr-00358, 2021 WL 5578687 (E.D. Tex. 2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> FED. TRADE COMM'N, NON-COMPETE CLAUSE RULE, 89 FR 38342-01 (May 7, 2024).

there is relatively little precedent that lawyers can use to predict case outcomes so that they can provide guidance to clients and calculate the odds of success in litigation. Second, because employee compensation is relatively hidden as compared to the prices of goods and services, workers often do not know they are underpaid and lawyers have trouble obtaining evidence for class actions. Third, creating classes of workers is sometimes more complex than creating classes of consumers.<sup>23</sup>

- 16. The labor antitrust cases that have been brought by private plaintiffs have almost always involved section 1 of the Sherman Act. These are cases in which independent employers collude by fixing wages, agreeing not to poach one another's employees, and engaging in similar activities. Section 1 labor cases are easier to bring than section 2 cases against monopsonists because section 1 cases involve agreements among multiple firms and those agreements are often public and may be per se illegal. The various lawsuits brought against sports leagues for anticompetitive behavior, for example, have benefitted from the public nature of the rules that leagues use to restrain competition.<sup>24</sup>
- 17. The current case, Le v. Zuffa, is the first section 2 labor antitrust claim that has ever resulted in an opinion, as far as I know,  $^{25}$  even though labor monopsony is extremely common. See ¶ 11, above.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> See Posner, New Labor Antitrust, supra note 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> NCAA v. Alston; House v. Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Ass'n, 545 F.3d 804 (N.D. Cal. 2021); Tennessee v. Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Ass'n, No. 324CV00033DCLCDCP, 2024 WL 464164 (E.D. Tenn. Feb. 6, 2024); Smart v. NCAA, No. 2:22-cv-02125 WBS KJN (E.D.Cal. 2023); State of Ohio v. Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Ass'n, No. 1:23-cv-00100 (N.D. W. Va. Dec. 7, 2023).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Posner, *supra* note 6, at 11. I have reviewed and updated my searches of case law databases for this report.

- 18. By contrast, section 2 cases in product markets are relatively common. Several such cases are among the most important landmarks of antitrust law. Section 2 was the basis of the breakups of Standard Oil in 1911<sup>26</sup> and AT&T in 1982,<sup>27</sup> and the successful government lawsuit against Microsoft twenty years ago.<sup>28</sup> Section 2 cases have recently been brought against Meta, Google, Apple, and Amazon.<sup>29</sup>
- 19. The contrast between rare section 2 labor cases and common section 2 product-market cases underlines the pathbreaking nature of *Le v. Zuffa*. The achievement of the significant settlement in this case—involving a payment of \$335 million plus prospective relief—will encourage victims of employer monopsony to bring meritorious antitrust lawsuits against employer monopsonies.

#### B. The Le v. Zuffa Settlement

20. The plaintiff class filed its initial complaint on December 16, 2014, almost ten years ago, well before the modern wave of labor antitrust cases.<sup>30</sup> The Court certified a class<sup>31</sup> and denied the defendant's motion for summary judgment.<sup>32</sup> After considerable investment of time, money, and effort, the parties settled on the eve of trial.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey v. United States, 221 U.S. 1 (1911).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> United States v. AT&T, 552 F. Supp. 131 (1982).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> United States v. Microsoft Corp., 253 F.3d 34 (D.C. Cir. 2001).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Fed. Trade Comm'n v. Meta Platforms Inc., 1:20-cv-03590, (D.D.C. 2020); United States v. Google LLC, 1:20-cv-03010 (D.D.C. 2020); United States v. Google LLC, No. 1:23-cv-00108 (E.D. Va. 2023); United States v. Apple Inc., 2:24-cv-04055, (D.N.J. 2024); Fed. Trade Comm'n. v. Amazon.com Inc, 2:23-cv-01495 (W.D. Wash. 2023).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> *Le v. Zuffa, LLC*, No. 2:15-cv-01045-RFB-BNW, 2023 WL 5085064 (D. Nev. Aug. 9, 2023) at ECF No. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> *Id.* at ECF No. 839 (certifying class).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> *Id.* at ECF No. 959 (denying summary judgment).

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- 21. This Court held that plaintiffs properly alleged a section 2 violation of the antitrust laws and showed a genuine dispute of material fact.<sup>33</sup> The plaintiffs had alleged that the defendant had engaged in a variety of anticompetitive actions to achieve a monopsony over the market for Elite Professional Mixed Martial Arts Fighter services in the United States.
- 22. In addition to stating a valid claim and demonstrating that there were genuine disputes of material fact as to their allegations, the plaintiffs secured important judicial opinions that will help litigants and future courts adjudicate section 2 labor antitrust cases. As the first opinions in such a case, they provide valuable guidance to future courts and litigants for, among other things, labor market definition, identification of anticompetitive actions in labor markets, the use of data and statistical techniques by experts to determine compensation levels and shares for certain types of workers, and considerations for certifying a class of workers in a labor antitrust case.
- 23. The case will also provide valuable guidance for litigants and judges in other labor antitrust cases brought under section 1 of the Sherman Act, section 7 of the Clayton Act, <sup>34</sup> and other provisions of the antitrust laws. Many of the issues addressed by this Court, for example, labor market definition, remain a matter of contention in other areas of antitrust law, and the Court's discussion and resolution of these issues will help courts and litigants navigate the law in future litigation. Indeed, *Le v. Zuffa* was cited for its analysis of labor market definition in *United*

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> For example, adjudication of an important recent merger challenge brought by the FTC under section 7 of the Clayton Act will benefit from the opinions issued by this Court. That case involves allegations that the merger of two large grocery chains will produce anticompetitive effects in multiple labor markets. See *Federal Trade Comm'n, In the Matter of The Kroger Company and Albertsons Companies, Inc.*, Docket No. D-9428 (2024).

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States v. Bertelsmann, the first case in which a court blocked a merger because of its impact on

labor markets.<sup>35</sup>

III. CONCLUSION

24. Anticompetitive behavior by employers is widespread and labor market

concentration is often extreme, but historically the antitrust laws have rarely been used to address

these problems. Only in the last ten years has there been a concerted effort to remedy this

deficiency. The plaintiffs' challenge to the defendant's labor monopsony in an important sports

and entertainment market has played a pioneering role in this effort, particularly in showing how

an employer with power in a labor market can be challenged under section 2 of the Sherman Act.

The judicial opinions it produced and the settlement for the class members will spur other private

plaintiffs to pursue meritorious claims in this important but neglected area of the law.

Executed this 13th of May, 2024 in Germantown, New York.

Eric A. Posner

a. h.Pa

<sup>35</sup> See *Bertelsmann*, 646 F. Supp. 3d at 32 (citing *Le v. Zuffa, LLC*, 216 F. Supp. 3d 1154, 1159, 1165–66 (D. Nev. 2016)).

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# Appendix to the Declaration of Professor Eric A. Posner in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement

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Fall 2008	Visiting Professor of Law, NYU Law School
1998-2003	Professor of Law, University of Chicago
1998	Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania
Fall 1997	Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, University of Chicago
1993-1998	Assistant Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania
1992-1993	Attorney Adviser, Office of Legal Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice
1991-1992	Law Clerk, Judge Stephen F. Williams, U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit

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Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate: Special Counsels and the Separation of Powers, September 26, 2017

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Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission Workshop on Draft Merger Guidelines, University of Chicago Law School, November 3, 2023

#### Education

Harvard Law School. J.D., magna cum laude, 1991

Yale University. B.A., M.A. in philosophy, summa cum laude, 1988

#### **Professional Organizations**

Maryland Bar Association (admitted 1991)

Illinois Bar Association (admitted 2018)

American Law and Economics Association (board member, various times)

American Law Institute

#### Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

John M. Olin fellowship, University of Southern California (3/95)

University Research Foundation grant, University of Pennsylvania (6/96)

Olin Fellow, University of Virginia Law School (9/02)

Simon Visiting Scholar, Florida State University College of Law (3/18/04)

Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences (elected 2010)

Sloan Grant for Conference on Benefit-Cost Analysis and Financial Regulation (2013) (with Glen Weyl)

Economist Book of the Year, for Radical Markets (2018)

Financial Times Book of the Year, for Last Resort (2018)

Bloomberg 50, for Radical Markets (2018)

Antitrust Writing Award, for Antitrust Remedies for Labor Market Power (2019)

American Antitrust Institute Jerry S. Cohen Memorial Fund Writing Award, for Antitrust Remedies for Labor Market Power (2019)

Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America (2019, 2020)

#### **Teaching**

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Contracts; Secured Transactions; Bankruptcy; Corporate Reorganization; Seminar on Contract Theory; Seminar on Game Theory and the Law; Employment and Labor Law; Public International Law; International Human Rights Law; Foreign Relations Law; International Law Workshop; European Union Law; Seminar on the Financial Crisis of 2008-2009; Banking Law; Financial Regulation; Seminar on the Federal Reserve Board; Seminar on Executive Power; Seminar on Originalism and Its Critics; Corporate Finance

#### **Other Professional Activities**

Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice (2022-2023)

Counsel, MoloLamken (2018-2021)

Counsel, Boies, Schiller & Flexner (2010-2016)

Cofounder and editor, New Rambler Review (2015-2017)

Member (elected 2014), Council Member (elected 2021); American Law Institute

Columnist, Slate Magazine (2012-2016)

Editor, Journal of Legal Studies (1998-2010)

Adviser, Restatement (Third) of Restitution, American Law Institute

Referee for Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of Economic Literature, Oxford University Press, Harvard University Press, Edward Elgar, Quarterly Journal of Economics, National Science Foundation, Law and Social Inquiry, American Economic Review, Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization, American Law and Economics Review, International Review of Law and Economics, American Journal of Political Science, Law and Society Review, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of the European Economics Association, Health Affairs, University of Chicago Press, Canada Council for the Arts, World Politics, Supreme Court Economic Review, Law and Philosophy, Ethics and International Affairs, Institute of Medicine, Israel Science Foundation, Conflict Management and Peace Science, Smith Richardson Foundation, Yale University Press, Hart Publishing, Journal of Peace Research, British Journal of Political Science, National Academy of Sciences, Social Theory and Practice, Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Journal of Global Ethics, Climate Policy, Political Science Quarterly, Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis, Journal of Legal Analysis, European Journal of International Law

Member, Editorial Board, Law & Social Inquiry (2000-2001)

Member, Board of Directors, American Law and Economics Association (2000-2003; 2013-2016)

Member, Board of University Publications, University of Chicago (2001-2004)

Member, Editorial Board, Review of Law and Economics (2004-)

Member, Oxford University Press Legal Education Advisory Board (2006-)

Member, Editorial Board, Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis (2009-)

Short-Term Consultant, World Bank (2007)

Participant in Simulated Canada-United States Negotiation Over the Northwest Passage, sponsored by ArcticNet (Ottawa, February 2008)

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Member, Faculty Steering Committee, Milton Friedman Institute (2008-2010)

Member, International Advisory Board, the Centre for Law, Economics and Society, University College London (2013-)

Member, Editorial Board, Economic Analysis of Law Review (2014-)

Sympatic Inc., Advisory Board (2019-)

Member, Committee on International Relations, University of Chicago (2003-)

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# EXHIBIT 3

(The full version of Exhibit 3 to the May 21, 2024 Joint Declaration is available at ECF No. 1024-6)

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# EXHIBIT 4

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# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Cung Le, Nathan Quarry, Jon Fitch, Brandon Vera, Luis Javier Vazquez, and Kyle Kingsbury, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated,

No.: 2:15-cv-01045-RFB-BNW

Plaintiffs,

v.

Zuffa, LLC, d/b/a Ultimate Fighting Championship and UFC,

Defendant.

Kajan Johnson, Clarence Dollaway, and Tristan Connelly, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

No.: 2:21-cv-1189-RFB BNW

Zuffa, LLC, TKO Operating Company, LLC f/k/a Zuffa Parent LLC (d/b/a Ultimate Fighting Championship and UFC) and Endeavor Group Holdings, Inc.,

Defendants.

DECLARATION OF HAL J. SINGER, PH.D.
IN SUPPORT OF PLAN OF ALLOCATION

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#### BACKGROUND, ASSIGNMENT, AND SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

- 1. I understand that the plaintiffs in *Le*, et al. v. Zuffa, LLC, No. 2:15-cv-1045 (D. Nev.) (the "Le Case") and Johnson, et al. v. Zuffa, LLC, et al., No. 2:21-cv-1189 (D. Nev.) (the "Johnson Case") (collectively, the "Actions") resolved the Actions with Defendants Zuffa, LLC, TKO Operating Company, LLC, Endeavor Group Holdings, Inc. (collectively, "Defendants") for \$335 million plus certain non-monetary relief relating to business practices (the "Settlement"). I further understand that Cung Le, Jon Fitch, Brandon Vera, Luis Javier Vazquez, and Kyle Kingsbury (the "Le Class Representatives") are prosecuting the Le Case on their own behalf and on behalf of the Le Class (defined below), and plaintiffs Kajan Johnson, Clarence Dollaway, and Tristan Connelly (the "Johnson Settlement Class Representatives") are prosecuting the Johnson Case on their own behalf and on behalf of the Johnson Settlement Class (defined below).
- 2. I have served as an expert economist for Plaintiffs in the *Le* Case since 2014. I provided economic analyses on, *inter alia*, monopoly and monopsony power, substantial foreclosure, common impact, aggregate damages, and anticompetitive effects. I submitted four reports and one declaration analyzing and addressing these and related issues. In my most recent Declaration, dated November 13, 2023, I addressed competitive issues in the MMA marketplace from 2017 through November 13, 2023, which covers most of the relevant period in *Johnson*. I also testified at the Class Certification Hearing in this case in August 2019. I am fully familiar with the facts and circumstances of *Le* Case and sufficiently familiar with the facts of the *Johnson* Case for purposes of my analysis in this Declaration.
- 3. The Plaintiffs in *Le* alleged that defendant Zuffa LLC ("Zuffa"), doing business as Ultimate Fighting Championship, implemented an anticompetitive scheme to acquire, maintain, and enhance its monopoly power in the market for promoting professional MMA bouts, and its monopsony power over the fighters appearing in those bouts. The Plaintiffs in *Le* further alleged that Zuffa's anticompetitive scheme had foreclosed potential rival MMA promoters, thereby maintaining and enhancing Zuffa's monopoly and monopsony power, causing anticompetitive effects, and resulting in antitrust injury and damages (in the form of artificially reduced "Event Compensation" for participation in live MMA bouts) to Plaintiffs and the *Le* Class. Based on my review of the Complaint in the *Johnson* Case, it appears that the allegations in *Johnson* are similar in material respects to those of *Le*.
- 4. I am a Managing Director at Econ One Research, Inc. ("Econ One") and a professor at the University of Utah College of Social & Behavioral Science, where I teach antitrust economics to graduate economic students and economics and the law to undergraduate economic students. I also serve as executive director of the Utah Project, an interdisciplinary center dedicated to the study of antitrust and consumer protection issues. <sup>4</sup> My testifying experience has focused on antitrust and

<sup>1.</sup> All Singer Reports or declarations are noted SR#. SR1 (August 31, 2017), SR2 (January 12, 2018), SR3 (April 3, 2018), SR4 (May 28, 2018), SR5 (November 13, 2023).

<sup>2.</sup> SR1 ¶1

<sup>3.</sup> SR2 ¶2.

<sup>4.</sup> See Utah Project on Antitrust and Consumer Protection, THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, <a href="https://utahproject.utah.edu/">https://utahproject.utah.edu/</a> (last visited Mar. 3, 2023).

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consumer protection matters, with a special emphasis in assessing common impact in class action litigation.

- 5. I am an applied microeconomist with an emphasis on industrial organization and regulation. In an academic capacity, I have published several books and book chapters, spanning a range of industries and topics, and my articles have appeared in dozens of legal and economic journals. My competition-related articles have appeared in multiple American Bar Association (ABA) Antitrust Section journals, and I have been a panelist at several ABA Antitrust events. In a consulting capacity, I have been nominated for antitrust practitioner of the year among economists by the American Antitrust Institute (AAI) for my work in *Tennis Channel v. Comcast.* AAI named me as Co-Honoree in the same category in 2018 for my work *In Re Lidoderm Antitrust Litigation.* AAI also named me as Honoree in the same category in 2023 for my work in the *Le* Case.
- 6. I have testified as an economic expert in state and federal courts, as well as before regulatory agencies. I also have testified before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust and the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights on the interplay between antitrust and sector-specific regulation. I have served as an expert for both plaintiffs seeking class certification and defendants opposing class certification. Federal courts have relied on my work in certifying ten classes in antitrust matters (including the *Le* Case),<sup>5</sup> and five classes in consumer protection matters.<sup>6</sup> I also have testified many times before Congress on competition policy.<sup>7</sup> In antitrust litigation, I have served as an expert to the Federal Trade Commission, the Competition Bureau Canada, and to several state Attorneys General in antitrust

<sup>5.</sup> See Meijer, Inc. v. Abbott Laboratories, No. C 07-5985 CW, 2008 WL 4065839 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 27, 2008) (Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Certification); Natchitoches Parish Hosp. Serv. Dist. v. Tyco Intl., Ltd., 262 F.R.D. 58 (D. Mass. 2008) (Granting Motion to Certify Class); Southeast Missouri Hospital and St. Francis Medical Center v. C.R. Bard, No. 1:07cv0031 TCM, 2008 WL 4372741 (E.D. Mo. Sep. 22, 2008) (Granting in Part Motion for Class Certification); Johnson v. Arizona Hosp. and Healthcare Assoc. No. CV 07-1292-PHX-SRB, 2009 WL 5031334 (D. Ariz. July 14, 2009) (Granting in Part Motion for Class Certification); In re Delta/AirTran Baggage Fee Antitrust Litig., 317 F.R.D. 665 (N.D. Ga. 2016) (Granting Motion to Certify Class); In re Lidoderm Antitrust Litig., No. 12-md-02521, 2017 WL 679367 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 21, 2017) (Granting Motions for Class Certifications and Denying Daubert Motions); Cung Le, et al. v. Zuffa, LLC d/b/a Ultimate Fighting Championship, 2:15-cv-01045-RFB-BNW, ECF No. 839 (D. Nev. Aug. 9, 2023) (Order Granting in part Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Certification); In Re: Pork Antitrust Litigation, No. 0:18-cv-01776, ECF No. 1887 (D. Minn. Mar. 29, 2023) (Granting Motion to Certify Class); Simon and Simon, PC d/b/a City Smiles and VIP Dental Spas v. Align Technology, Inc., No. 20-cv-03754-VC (N.D. Cal. Nov. 29, 2023) (Order Granting in Part the Motions for Class Certification; Denying Motions to Exclude Dr. Singer and Dr. Vogt); In Re: Broiler Chicken Growing Antitrust Litigation (No. II), 6:20-MD-02977-RJS-CMR, ECF No. 798 (E.D. Okla. May 8, 2024) (Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion For Class Certification And Denying Defendant's Motion To Exclude).

<sup>6.</sup> See In re MacBook Keyboard Litigation, Case No. 5:18-cv-02813-EJD, 2021 WL 1250378 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 8, 2021); In re JUUL Labs, Inc., Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation, Case No. 19-md-02913-WHO, ECF No. 3327 (N.D. Cal. Jun. 28, 2022); In Re: Pepperdine University Tuition and Fees Covid-19 Refund Litigation, Master File No. 2:20-cv-04928-DMG, ECF No. 115 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 26, 2023); In Re: University of Southern California Tuition and Fees COVID-19 Refund Litigation, Case No. 2:20-cv-4066-DMG, ECF No. 213 (C.D. Cal. Sep. 29, 2023); Michael Miazza, et al. v. Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, Case No. C-696918 (Parish of East Baton Rouge May 19, 2023) (Granting Motion to Certify Class).

<sup>7. &</sup>quot;Reviving Competition, Part 1: Proposals to Address Gatekeeper Power and Lower Barriers to Entry Online," held by the House Subcommittee on Antitrust, Feb. 23, 2021; "Breaking the News – Journalism, Competition, and the Effects of Market Power on a Free Press," held by the Senate Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights, Feb. 2, 2022; "(Im)Balance of Power: How Market Concentration Affects Worker Compensation and Consumer Prices," Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth, Apr. 6, 2022.

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matters. Specific to settlement allocation, I have designed and proposed allocation plans similar to that proposed herein in two other cases.<sup>8</sup>

- 7. I have been asked by Co-Lead Class Counsel in *Le* and proposed Settlement Class Counsel in *Johnson* to assist in devising a plan of allocation to distribute the net proceeds from the Settlement, after deduction of any Court approved attorneys' fees, expenses, or other costs (the "Net Settlement Fund") to the members of the two "Settlement Classes" defined as follows:
  - Le Class: All persons who competed in one or more live professional UFC-promoted MMA bouts taking place or broadcast in the United States from December 16, 2010, through June 30, 2017. Excluded from the Le Class are all persons who are not residents or citizens of the United States unless the UFC paid such persons for competing in a bout fought in the United States.
  - Johnson Settlement Class: All persons who competed in one or more live professional UFC-promoted MMA bouts taking place or broadcast in the United States from July 1, 2017 to the date of preliminary approval of the Settlement. Excluded from the Johnson Settlement Class are all persons who are not residents or citizens of the United States unless the UFC paid such persons for competing in a bout fought or broadcast in the United States.
- 8. From my review of the data and other information, it is clear that there are several fighters who are members of both the *Le* Class and the *Johnson* Settlement Class. This plan proposes that such fighters, who submit valid and timely claim forms for both cases, would be entitled to recover from both the portion of the Net Settlement Fund allocated to the *Le* Class (the "*Le* Class Tranche") and the portion of the Net Settlement Fund allocated to the *Johnson* Settlement Class (the "*Johnson* Settlement Class Tranche"). Each such dual Claimant would be entitled to recover his or her allocation from both the *Le* Class Tranche and the *Johnson* Settlement Class Tranche combined.
- 9. This declaration is organized as follows. In Part I, I explain the allocation of the Net Settlement Fund as between the two Settlement Classes, which establishes a pool of funds for those members of the *Le* Class (*i.e.*, the *Le* Class Tranche) who submit valid claims ("*Le* Claimants"), and a separate pool of funds for those members of the *Johnson* Settlement Class (*i.e.*, the *Johnson* Settlement Class Tranche) who submit valid claims ("*Johnson* Claimants"). In Parts II and III, I explain how the pool of funds available to each of the Settlement Classes, respectively, can be allocated using event-level transaction data I have available to me for these Actions. Based on my prior impact and damages analyses from my reports in the *Le* Case, and my knowledge of the similar allegations in the *Johnson* Case, I conclude that the allocation methodologies proposed herein as between the two Settlement Classes, and within each of the Settlement Classes, are reasonable and consistent with the facts as I understand them, basic economic theory, equity, and my damages model. My staff and I are willing and able to assist the claims administrator in calculating the pro rata distributions described in this declaration.

<sup>8.</sup> Fusion Elite All Stars, et al. v. Varsity Brands, LLC et al., Case No. 2:20-CV-03390 (SHL-tmp) (W.D. Tenn.); In re Lidoderm Antitrust Litig., No. 12-md-02521, 2017 WL 679367 (N.D. Cal.).

<sup>9.</sup> SR1 ¶293, 299, 304-305 (discussing the Zuffa event-level datasets).

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#### I. SETTLEMENT FUND ALLOCATION BETWEEN THE LE AND JOHNSON SETTLEMENT CLASSES

- 10. As I understand it, the Settlement Class Counsel propose, initially, to divide the Net Settlement Fund into two tranches as follows: 75 percent allocated to the *Le* Class Tranche, and 25 percent allocated to the *Johnson* Settlement Class Tranche. Due to the particularities of the *Johnson* Settlement Class, the 25 percent allocation to the *Johnson* Settlement Class represents a maximum value. In the event the calculated allocations to the *Johnson* Claimants do not equal the full value of the *Johnson* Settlement Class Tranche under the methodology proposed below, any remaining funds would be reallocated to the *Le* Class Tranche. In that situation, the final allocation to the *Le* Class could exceed 75 percent, and the final allocation to the *Johnson* Settlement Class could be less than 25 percent. I explain this possibility in detail below.
- 11. I believe the allocation proposal is equitable and consistent with the facts and economics of each case for the following reasons: (1) the *Le* Case is much older and includes class members who fought in the UFC further back in time, and thus on a "time value of money" basis should be entitled to more relative to *Johnson*; (2) the *Le* Case was fully litigated and the *Johnson* Case had not yet begun discovery at the time of settlement; (3) the UFC made changes to its fighter contracts seemingly in response to the *Le* Case, which benefitted the *Johnson* Settlement Class fighters and would potentially have complicated the litigation of the *Johnson* Case; and (4) I understand that the many of the class members in the *Johnson* Case may be subject to arbitration clauses and provisions banning participation in class actions, meaning that (as I understand it) these claims have limited value.
- 12. Starting with the available data, Table 1 below summarizes the total bout compensation paid to each of the Settlement Classes during their respective Class Periods. The *Le* Class earned a total of \$556.5 million in Event Compensation from bouts during the *Le* Class Period. The *Johnson* Settlement Class not subject to arbitration clauses or class action waivers earned approximately \$457.9 million from bouts during the *Johnson* Settlement Class Period. 11

<sup>10.</sup> I calculate that Zuffa paid *Le* Class Members \$556.5 million in Event Compensation during the *Le* Class Period (December 16, 2010 through June 30, 2017). *See* SR1 ¶283 (explaining compensation data comes from ZFL-0000003, ZFL-2603701, and ZFL-2764800). This figure includes all fight compensation including win and show money, as well as any and all discretionary bonuses. SR1 ¶180 ("For any given bout in any given event, the total compensation each Fighter in the Bout Class receives can be decomposed into four categories; these are (1) show and win purses, (2) discretionary/performance pay, (3) PPV royalties, and (4) letters of agreement. I define a Fighter's total event-level compensation ("Event Compensation") as the sum across these four categories.").

<sup>11.</sup> Zuffa has produced an estimate for the approximate number of fighters in Johnson to an arbitration clause, which I used to compute the share of all *Johnson* Settlement Class members subject to these provisions. That share was 55.2 percent. I used that figure for these calculations by multiplying the share of fighters in the *Johnson* Settlement Class not subject to these provisions by the total bout compensation paid to *Johnson* Settlement Class members during the *Johnson* Class Perio (\$1,022.2 \* (1-0.552) = \$457.9). This result likely understates the share of all compensation during the Johnson Settlement Class Period not subject to arbitration provisions given that, as I understand it, Zuffa began near universally applying these provisions to new fighter contracts in or about 2020, and it is likely that the more highly paid fighters are the ones that fought more bouts over a longer period of time and thus would be more likely to have continued to be fighting into the period during which Zuffa was more universally imposing such provisions. I understand that Zuffa will, in the coming months, produce data and information that specifically identifies those fighters who executed contracts with arbitration clauses and class action waivers. This evidence will allow me to make a more precise estimate of the share of fighter pay that was paid to *Johnson* Settlement Class members not subject to arbitration clauses. Further, as reflected in Table 1 below, the data available to me at this time ends on April 13, 2023, but the *Johnson* Settlement

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TABLE 1 – NOMINAL CLASS COMPENSATION

	Le Class	Johnson Settlement Class
Class Period	12/16/2010 - 6/30/2017	7/1/2016 - 4/13/2023
Fighters	1,140	1,297
<b>Event Compensation (millions)</b>	\$556.5	\$1,022.2
Fighters with Arbitration Clauses	0	716
Percent in Arbitration	0%	55.2%
Non-Arbitration Event Compensation (millions)	\$556.5	\$457.9

Source: ZFL-0000003, ZFL-2603701, ZFL-2764800, 20240430, "Fighter Purse Report 2017 to current.xlsx," and "20240506 Fighter Purse Report UFC 214.xlsx"

13. To compare the relative claim value between the two Settlement Classes, I next account for the "time value of money." Intuitively, a dollar today is more valuable than a dollar a year from now—compensation foregone by Settlement Class members in the past could have been invested for a larger value today. Accordingly, when considering the allocation between the Settlement Classes, a dollar damage caused ten years ago should be weighted more than a dollar of damage caused yesterday. The standard method for addressing the time value of money is to perform a "future value" calculation, whereby funds in one period are scaled to a future period using an interest rate. <sup>13</sup> For the purposes of this comparison I use a seven percent interest rate to estimate the present value of the compensation for both Settlement Classes. <sup>14</sup> Doing so yields the present value of the Settlement Classes' compensation in Table 2 below.

Class Period will run to the date of preliminary approval. As a result, I expect to have updated compensation figures for the *Johnson* Settlement Class prior to distribution to reflect compensation paid through the end of the *Johnson* Settlement Class Period.

<sup>12.</sup> STEPHEN ROSS, RANDOLPH WESTERFIELD & BRADFORD JORDAN, FUNDAMENTALS OF CORPORATE FINANCE 121 (McGraw-Hill 8<sup>th</sup> ed. 2007) ("In the most general sense, the phrase time value of money refers to the fact that a dollar in hand today is worth more than a dollar promised at some time in the future. On a practical level, one reason for this is that you could earn interest while you waited; so a dollar today would grow to more than a dollar later. The trade-off between money now and money later thus depends on, among other things, the rate you can earn by investing.").

<sup>13.</sup> *Id.* at 122 ("Future value (FV) refers to the amount of money an investment will grow to over some period of time at some given interest rate. Put another way, future value is the cash value of an investment at some time in the future.")  $FV = \$*(1+r)^t$ , where \\$\\$ is the initial investment (here, damages incurred at time t), r is the per-period interest rate, and t is the number of periods. *Id.* at 123.

<sup>14.</sup> This discount rate is halfway between a "risk-free" investment such as the U.S. 10-year treasury, (2.4% average annual return during the Le Class Period), and the average return on the S&P 500 during the same period (11.6% average annual return). 11.6% + 2.4% / 2 = 7%. See https://www.macrotrends.net/2526/sp-500-historical-annual-returns; https://www.macrotrends.net/2016/10-year-treasury-bond-rate-yield-chart.

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TABLE 2 – PRESENT VALUE OF CLASS COMPENSATION

	Le Class	Johnson Settlement Class
Event Compensation	\$556.5	\$457.9
Average Years Since Payment	9.8	3.3
Discount Rate	7%	7%
Present Value of Compensation	\$1,075.2	\$568.0

Source: ZFL-0000003, ZFL-2603701, ZFL-2764800, 20240430, "Fighter Purse Report 2017 to current.xlsx," and "20240506 Fighter Purse Report UFC 214.xlsx"

- 14. If the two Actions had *identical* fact patterns, including identical per-fighter damages as a percentage of compensation, then Table 2 would imply a split of 65/35 between *Le* Class Tranche and the *Johnson* Settlement Class Tranche. However, the fact patterns between the two Actions are not identical. Considering the factors below, I believe it is appropriate to give a greater weight to the *Le* Class Tranche than the *Johnson* Settlement Class Tranche given the additional two factors:
  - a) The *Le* Case has been fully litigated to the brink of trial, while the *Johnson* Case has not yet begun discovery. Economic theory would dictate that the *Le* Case is thus a much more valuable negotiation tool that counsel for Plaintiffs would have used to negotiate this Settlement. <sup>15</sup>
  - b) The *Johnson* Settlement Class likely has lower per-fighter damages (as a percentage of compensation) relative to the *Le* Class. While I was able to compute the degree of harm to the *Le* Class members in my reports, I was not provided the necessary data and contracts to make this same calculation for the *Johnson* Settlement Class. However, I understand that Zuffa made certain adjustments to the allegedly foreclosing contracts that drove my *Le* Class damages analysis starting in in or about 2019 or 2020. <sup>16</sup> These changes to the *Johnson* Settlement Class contracts, which at least superficially appear to lower the total amount of time a fighter is under contract with the UFC, would have at least potential benefits, on the margins, for members of the *Johnson* Settlement Class and thus could have resulted in a lower degree of per-

<sup>15.</sup> FISHER, ROGER, WILLIAM L. URY, AND BRUCE PATTON. GETTING TO YES: NEGOTIATING AGREEMENT WITHOUT GIVING IN, 102-104 (Penguin 3rd ed. 2011) ("What is your BATNA—your Best Alternative To a Negotiated Agreement? *That* is the standard against which any proposed agreement should be measured. That is the only standard that can protect you both from accepting terms that are too unfavorable and from rejecting terms it would be in your interest to accept . . . The better your BATNA, the greater your power. People think of negotiating power as being determined by resources determined by resources like wealth, political connections, physical strength, friends, and military might. In fact, the relative negotiating power of two parties depends primarily upon how attractive to each is the option of not reaching agreement."). Here, the BATNA for the *Le* Class was the impending trial.

<sup>16.</sup> These changes included changes to the term lengths of some of the contractual provisions I discussed in my initial report (SR1  $\P66-73$ ). It appears as if those changes were made in response to the Le action. I also understand that the settlement locks certain of those changes in for 5 years. Specifically, I understand those changes to include: (1) a reduction in the Right to Match Period from 12 to 4 months, (2) a reduction in the Exclusive Negotiation Period from 90 days to 40 days, (3) a modification to the injury tolling provision.

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fighter damages to the *Johnson* Settlement Class relative to *Le* Class using my *Le* Class damages methodology. <sup>17</sup>

15. While there is no method to give a precise quantification of the value for each of the above factors, it would nonetheless be consistent with basic economic theory to overweight the *Le* Class relative to the *Johnson* Settlement Class because of them. Therefore, I find it reasonable to increase the proportion of the Net Settlement Fund awarded to the *Le* Class from 65 percent (as implied by Table 2) to 75 percent in light of these two factors.

#### II. ALLOCATION OF THE LE CLASS TRANCHE AMONGST LE CLAIMANTS

- 16. The 75 percent of the Net Settlement Fund allocated to the *Le* Class, namely the *Le* Class Tranche, is to be distributed among *Le* Claimants according to the method set for the below. Assuming the Court grants the Fee and Expense Award akin to that set forth in the Class Notice, this would result in a total net recovery for the *Le* Class of approximately \$161.25M, <sup>18</sup> which would represent a *minimum* of 29 percent of total Event Compensation Zuffa paid to *Le* Class Members over the *Le* Class Period in the (unlikely event) that all eligible *Le* Class Members were to submit valid and timely claims. <sup>19</sup> I propose that the Net Settlement Fund will be distributed to *Le* Claimants based on two *pro rata* factors, with a minimum recovery for any *Le* Claimant set to \$8,000:
  - a) 80 percent of the *Le* Class Tranche (approximately \$129.0M) to be distributed on the basis of each *Le* Claimant's *pro rata* share of all Event Compensation<sup>20</sup> earned by *Le* Claimants during the *Le* Class Period.
  - b) 20 percent of the *Le* Class Tranche (approximately \$32.25M) to be distributed on the basis of each *Le* Claimant's *pro rata* share of all *Le* Claimants' bouts fought during the *Le* Class Period.<sup>21</sup>
- 17. In my first expert report, I determined that all or nearly all *Le* Class Members were impacted by the Challenged Conduct in the case, <sup>22</sup> and that each Class Member's damages was a

<sup>17.</sup> I considered fighters as foreclosed if their contracts (A) contained a Champion's Clause, and (B) exceeded 30 months in total duration, including the length of the exclusive negotiation period and right to match period. If a sufficient number of the *Johnson* Settlement Class member Contracts were of a shorter duration due to the contract changes in or about 2018 or 2019, then my analysis as performed in the *Le* case would potentially consider fewer fighters as foreclosed. For instance, as I understand it, the changes shortened the right to match period from one year to four months. Thus, absent alteration to account for new facts and circumstances in *Johnson*, a simple application of my damages analysis from *Le* to *Johnson* could yield lower damages to the *Johnson* Settlement Class.

<sup>18.</sup> The Settlement involves total payments of \$335M. The Net Settlement Fund after all potential deductions (of potential Court awarded fees and costs, as well as costs of administration) is approximately \$215M. \$215 \* 75% (share to Le Class Tranche) = \$161.25M. This is a minimum value. As explained in Part III, should the Johnson Settlement Class Tranche have any remaining funds after computation of the distributions to Johnson Claimants under the method set for the below, any excess funds would be added to the Le Class Tranche.

<sup>19. \$161.3 / \$556.5 = 29%.</sup> 

<sup>20.</sup> As explained in SR1 ¶180, a fighter's total event-level compensation ("Event Compensation") is the sum of (1) show and win purses, (2) discretionary/performance pay, (3) PPV royalties, and (4) letters of agreement.

<sup>21.</sup> This method results in the following equation, applied to each claiming fighter in the data:  $Fighter's \$ Recovery = \left(\frac{Fighter's Bouts}{All Bouts} * 20\% * \$161.3M\right) + \left(\frac{Fighter's Comp}{All Compensation} * 80\% * \$161.3M\right)$ . In this equation, "All Bouts" and "All Compensation" refer to all *Le* Claimants who submit timely and valid claims.

<sup>22.</sup> SR1 ¶¶209-232. I also reviewed record evidence of a wage structure that would have transmitted wage suppression across the *Le* Class. SR1 ¶215.

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function of his or her actual compensation compared to his or her but-for compensation.<sup>23</sup> In particular, I estimated a regression model that mapped characteristics of the fight and the fighter, alongside a measure of the share of fighters foreclosed from rivals ("foreclosure share"), into a fighter's share of the event's proceeds (the "wage share").<sup>24</sup> After fitting the model to the data, I predicted the fighter's but-for wage with all factors held constant except for the foreclosure share, which was reduced to 30 percent in the but-for world.<sup>25</sup> If a fighter's predicted but-for wage share exceeded his or her actual wage share for any event, I considered that fighter to have suffered injury. Accordingly, all *Le* Class Members should be principally awarded on the basis of their actual compensation earned.

- 18. However, it would be incorrect to assume that the rates of compensation in a but-for world would be exactly the same as they were the same as the actual world. Stated differently: In a more competitive but-for world, Zuffa may have increased its lower paid fighter payments proportionally more than it would have increased its payments to top fighters, particularly as top fighter compensation is driven by Pay-Per-View revenue shares. All else equal, I would expect the most popular fighters may have enjoyed a modicum of countervailing bargaining power to offset Zuffa's alleged misconduct. Even if they could not leave Zuffa, they may have agitated for themselves more aggressively given their popularity. Allocating 20 percent of the compensation by the share of bouts fought (as opposed to basing allocation simply on total compensation earned) recognizes that certain journeymen fighters with less name recognition may have been harmed more as a proportion of their compensation than the more popular fighters.
- 19. The data produced by Zuffa in this case contains the names and exact compensation amounts of each member of the *Le* Class. Using this data, the settlement administrator can populate the *Le* Class claim form for each *Le* Claimant.<sup>26</sup>

# III. ALLOCATION OF THE *JOHNSON* SETTLEMENT CLASS TRANCHE AMONGST *JOHNSON* CLAIMANTS

20. The 25 percent of the Net Settlement Fund allocated to the *Johnson* Settlement Class, namely the *Johnson* Settlement Class Tranche, is to be distributed amongst *Johnson* Claimants under the method set for the below. Making the same assumptions about the requested Fee and Expense Award and other costs, this would result in a total net recovery for the *Johnson* Settlement Class of approximately \$53.75M.<sup>27</sup> The *Johnson* Settlement Class Tranche, under these assumptions, would represent 11.7 percent of total Event Compensation Zuffa paid to *Johnson* Settlement Class Members who were not subject to arbitration clauses or class action waivers over the *Johnson* Settlement Class, there are two

<sup>23.</sup> SR1 ¶230 ("I used the regression models...to predict the but-for compensation share for each Fighter in each event in the but-for world. I then compared the predicted but-for compensation share with the share of Event Revenue that the Fighter actually received in that event.").

<sup>24.</sup> SR1 ¶¶180-181.

<sup>25.</sup> SR1 ¶230.

<sup>26.</sup> To the extent that a potential class member fails to submit a claim, the portion of the allocated amount to which he or she would have been entitled under this method would be allocated to the other Claimants in the appropriate Tranche based on the equations above.

<sup>27.</sup> The Settlement is for \$335M. The Net Settlement Fund after all deductions is \$215M. \$215 \* 25% = \$53.75M. This is a minimum value. As explained in Part III, should the *Johnson* Settlement Class Tranche have any remaining funds after assessing *Johnson* Claimants, any excess funds would be added to the *Le* Class Tranche.

<sup>28. \$53.75 / \$457.92 = 11.7%</sup> 

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major sub-grouping of Settlement Class Members: (1) fighters whose contracts contained arbitration clauses and/or other clauses that ban participation in a class action lawsuit, and (2) fighters without such restrictive clauses.

- 21. For fighters *without* arbitration clauses or class action waivers in their fighter contracts, I propose that the funds will be distributed on two *pro rata* factors as follows:
  - a) 80 percent of the *Johnson* Settlement Class Tranche (approximately \$43.0M) to be distributed on the basis of each *Johnson* Claimant's *pro rata* share of all Event Compensation Zuffa paid to the subset of *Johnson* Claimants not subject to arbitration clauses or class action waivers during the *Johnson* Settlement Class Period.
  - b) 20 percent of the *Johnson* Settlement Class Tranche (approximately \$10.75M) to be distributed on the basis of each *Johnson* Claimant's *pro rata* share of all bouts fought by *Johnson* Settlement Class Claimants without arbitration clauses or class action waivers during the *Johnson* Settlement Class Period.<sup>29</sup>
- 22. To ensure fairness between *Le* and *Johnson* cases given the factors set out above in Section I, individual awards from the *Johnson* Settlement Class Tranche provided to Claimants *without* arbitration clauses or class action waivers will be capped at 10 percent of each *Johnson* Claimant's Event Compensation during the *Johnson* Settlement Class Period, or \$7,000, whichever is higher.
- 23. Claimants *with* arbitration clauses or class action waivers, whose claims have little value, will receive a flat \$5,000 award, regardless of total compensation or number of bouts fought during the *Johnson* Settlement Class Period.
- 24. After making these calculations, any monies left over in the *Johnson* Settlement Class Tranche shall be allocated to the *Le* Class Tranche and distributed to *Le* Claimants pursuant to the methods set forth in Section II above.
- 25. Zuffa has produced for settlement purposes its compensation data that contains the names, number of bouts, and exact compensation amounts of each member of the *Johnson* Settlement Class through April 13, 2023. Zuffa has also produced an estimate for the approximate number of fighters in the *Johnson* Settlement Class subject to an arbitration clause, which I used for my calculations above. I also understand that Zuffa will, in the coming months, produce data and information that identifies those fighters who executed contracts with arbitration clauses and class action waivers. Using this data, the claims administrator can populate the *Johnson* Settlement Class claim form for each *Johnson* Settlement Class Member.<sup>30</sup>
- 26. Any Le Claimant who is also Johnson Claimant will receive an award equal to the sum of the amount he or she would be entitled to under the formula set forth in Section II (for the

<sup>29.</sup> This method results in the following equation, applied to each claiming fighter in the data:  $Fighter's \$ Recovery = \left(\frac{Fighter's Bouts}{All Bouts} * 20\% * \$53.8M\right) + \left(\frac{Fighter's Comp}{All Compensation} * 80\% * \$53.8M\right)$ . In this equation, "All Bouts" and "All Compensation" refer to all *Johnson* Claimants who submit claims.

<sup>30.</sup> To the extent that a potential Settlement Class member fails to submit a claim, the portion of the Net Settlement Fund to which he or she would have been entitled would be allocated to the other Claimants in the appropriate Tranche based on the equations above.

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Le Class) and the total amount he or she would be entitled to under the formula set forth in Section III (for the Johnson Settlement Class).

### **CONCLUSION**

27. Based on my prior economic and econometric analyses in this case, I conclude that the proposed Plan of Allocation is reasonable, equitable, and consistent with basic economic theory, and my damages models in the case.

\* \* \*

Hal J. Singer, Ph.D.:

Executed on May 15, 2024

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# EXHIBIT 5

(The full version of Exhibit 5 to the May 21, 2024 Joint Declaration is available at ECF No. 1024-8)